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# Daily Report

# East Asia

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# Daily Report
## East Asia

*FBIS-EAS-91-053* CONTENTS *19 March 1991*

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## NORTHEAST ASIA

### Japan

Nakayama To Push To 'Reactivate' U.S. Ties *[KYODO]* .......... 1
Japan To Cooperate With U.S. Commerce Mission *[KYODO]* .......... 1
Gorbachev To Visit Kyoto, Osaka on Trip *[KYODO]* .......... 1
Stand on Return of Northern Islands Softened *[KYODO]* .......... 2
Keidanren Chief Proposes Territorial Return *[KYODO]* .......... 2
USSR Referendum Held on Disputed Islands .......... 2
    80% Reject Return to Japan *[KYODO]* .......... 2
    Kaifu, Nakayama on Vote *[KYODO]* .......... 3
    Spokesman Discounts Public Opinion *[KYODO]* .......... 3
Minister To Invite Cambodia's Son Sann To Visit *[KYODO]* .......... 3
Kaifu To Form Peacekeeping Advisory Group *[KYODO]* .......... 4
Kaifu Remarks on Political Reform, Minesweepers *[Tokyo TV]* .......... 4
Parliamentarians Urge DPRK To Let Wives Return *[KYODO]* .......... 4
Ex-Minister Supports Early Discount Rate Cut *[KYODO]* .......... 5
    Finance Minister Reacts to Call *[KYODO]* .......... 5
    More on Minister's Remarks *[KYODO]* .......... 5
Defective Part Linked to Nuclear Plant Accident *[KYODO]* .......... 6
Roundtable Discusses Solutions to Labor Problem *[TSUSAN JANARU Jan]* .......... 6
    Coping With Labor Shortage .......... 6
    Personnel Administration Reform .......... 11
    Put People First .......... 12
    Small, Medium Enterprises .......... 13

### North Korea

U.S. Commerce Secretary Plans To Visit ROK *[KCNA]* .......... 15
U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative Discussed *[KCNA]* .......... 15
Yi Song-ho Sends Message to ROK Red Cross *[KCNA]* .......... 16
Meeting Held To Welcome Defector From ROK *[KCNA]* .......... 16
ROK Army Defector's Interview Reported *[KCNA]* .......... 16
Reportage on Team Spirit Exercises Continues .......... 17
    Parachuting Exercises Reported *[KCNA]* .......... 17
    16, 17 Mar Exercises Reported *[KCNA]* .......... 17
    Mass Rallies Denounce Exercises *[KCNA]* .......... 18
    Exercise Called 'War Rehearsal' *[Pyongyang Radio]* .......... 18
    Military Analyst's Article *[Pyongyang Radio]* .......... 19
NODONG SINMUN Views Elections in ROK *[KCNA]* .......... 22
Japanese Official Interviewed on Relations Talks *[KCNA]* .......... 23
O Chin-u Sends Greetings to Thai Counterpart *[KCNA]* .......... 23
Indian Foreign Minister Greets Kim Yong-nam *[KCNA]* .......... 23
Kim Il-song Sends Greeting to Tunisian President *[KCNA]* .......... 23
* LSWY Members Pledge Loyalty to Kim Chong-il *[NODONG CHONGNYON 17 Jan]* .......... 23
Thermal Power Plant Construction 'Stepped Up' *[KCNA]* .......... 26
Reservoirs Built in South Hamgyong Province *[KCNA]* .......... 26
Assistance for Building Tongil Street Urged *[Pyongyang Radio]* .......... 26
Comradely Unity in Entire Society Urged *[Pyongyang Radio]* .......... 29

### South Korea

Kim Il-song Said Suffering 'Heartbeat Slowdown' *[YONHAP]* 31
Air Route Via North, South Korea Put on Hold *[YONHAP]* 31
ROK To Consult With UN Under Secretaries *[YONHAP]* 31
Principles for North-South Talks Discussed *[TONG-A ILBO 18 Mar]* 32
Seoul Approves Scholars' Contact With DPRK *[YONHAP]* 33
Patriot Missiles Ruled Out for Scud-B Defense *[YONHAP]* 33
* DPRK's Kim Kwang-chin's Biography Detailed *[PUKHAN Feb]* 33
Ministry: Soviet Sailor Not Seeking Asylum *[YONHAP]* 37
Communications Conference Opens in Seoul 18 Mar *[THE KOREA HERALD 19 Mar]* 37
    Discussions Held With Soviets *[YONHAP]* 37
Company To Build Industrial Complex in Vietnam *[CHOSON ILBO 19 Mar]* 38
Red Cross Official Visits SRV, Delivers Money *[YONHAP]* 38
Bruneian Official Initials Aviation Pact *[YONHAP]* 38
Gulf War Teams Likely To Return Home in Apr *[YONHAP]* 38
DPRK Said To Close 10 Embassies in Africa *[YONHAP]* 39
Opposition Claims 'Reckless' Government Pledges *[THE KOREA TIMES 16 Mar]* 39
Professors' Group Signs Suso Scandal Petition *[YONHAP]* 39
Optimum Size of Constituency Systems Debated *[HANGUK ILBO 19 Mar]* 40
Security Agency Investigates Students, Soldiers *[YONHAP]* 40
Labor Minister Reports to No on Plans, Goals *[YONHAP]* 40
Union Leaders Urged To Make 'Reasonable' Demands *[YONHAP]* 41

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

### Malaysia

Cabinet Reshuffle Includes Party Rivals *[THE STRAITS TIMES 15 Mar]* 42
Foreign Minister Stresses Greater ASEAN Harmony *[THE STRAITS TIMES 15 Mar]* 42
New Foreign Minister Profiled *[Bangkok THE NATION 19 Mar]* 43

### Singapore

French Navy Ship Introduced at Defense Show *[AFP]* 45

### Cambodia

Hor Namhong Meets With Australian Minister *[SPK]* 45
Chea Soth Thanks Japan for Settlement Initiative *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 45
Heng Samrin Congratulates Mongolian Leader *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46
Heng Samrin Visits Preah Sdach District *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46
Khmer Rouge Assists KPNLF in Battle *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 19 Mar]* 46
Article on Changing Khmer Rouge Tactics *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 19 Mar]* 47
Military Activities in Banteay Meanchey Reported *[SPK]* 48
Battle Successes in Week Ending 7 Mar Reported *[SPK]* 48
300 'Fresh' Vietnamese Troops Sent 12 Mar *[Radio VONADK]* 48
Resistance Kills 11, Destroys Tank 11 Mar *[Radio VONADK]* 49

### Indonesia

Irian Jaya Separatist Leader 'Jailed for Life' *[AFP]* 49
Former PKI Officials Want To Return After Exile *[AFP]* 49

### Philippines

Manglapus Says Imelda Marcos 'May' Get Passport *[Manila Radio]* 49
Aquino Statement on U.S. Bases Corrected *[AFP]* 50

- Aquino Wants To Talk to People About U.S. Bases *[Quezon City Radio]* 50
  - Senate Bloc Warns Aquino on Plan *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 19 Mar]* 50
- Aquino Says No Plebiscite on Extension of Bases *[Manila Radio]* 52
- Manglapus' 'Sales Pitch' on U.S. Bases 'Failed' *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 19 Mar]* 52
- MALAYA on Management of U.S. Military Facilities *[19 Mar]* 53
- USSR Offers To Train Pilots Under Exchange Plan *[MANILA BULLETIN 19 Mar]* 53
- Mitra Confident of LDP Presidential Nomination *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 19 Mar]* 54
- Editorial Views 'Fluid' Political Alignments *[MALAYA 18 Mar]* 54
- Air Force, Aviation Industry 'Weakest' in Asia *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 18 Mar]* 55
- Captured NDF Leader Reveals Haribon Infiltration *[MANILA BULLETIN 18 Mar]* 56
- Residents Complain to CHR Over Military Bombings *[MALAYA 19 Mar]* 56
- 18 Killed in Insurgency-Related Incidents *[Quezon City Radio]* 56
- Paper Reports 28 Killed in Clashes With Rebels *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 19 Mar]* 57

**Thailand**

- More on Solomon Talks With Ministers in Bangkok *[BANGKOK POST 19 Mar]* 57
- Foreign Minister on Trade Ties With U.S. *[Bangkok Radio]* 58
- Envoy on Developments in Relations With U.S. *[THE NATION 17 Mar]* 58
- Envoy Discusses Japanese Response to Coup *[THE NATION 17 Mar]* 61
- Minister on Grievances Over NPKC Price Policy *[THE NATION 19 Mar]* 63
- Suchinda Prepared To Have Assets Investigated *[BANGKOK POST 17 Mar]* 63
- Paper Views Military Role in National Assembly *[THE NATION 16 Mar]* 64
- Debate Over Separation of Powers Continues *[THE NATION 19 Mar]* 65
- Kaset Warns Workers Against Staging Protests *[BANGKOK POST 19 Mar]* 65
- Labor Leaders To Meet on State Enterprises Issue *[THE NATION 19 Mar]* 66
- NPA Spokesman on Labor Unions, Chawalit Letter *[Bangkok Radio]* 67
- Paper on NPKC Intention To Scrap Labor Unions *[BANGKOK POST 17 Mar]* 67

**Vietnam**

- 'Manhandling' of Vietnamese in Bulgaria Protested *[VNA]* 69
- Japan's Cambodian Peace Initiative Noted *[Hanoi Radio]* 69
- Soviet Referendum, Initial Results Viewed *[Hanoi International]* 69
- Nguyen Co Thach Greets New Malaysian Minister *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
- Hun Sen Defends Doctoral Thesis in Hanoi *[VNA]* 70
- Nguyen Van Linh Investment Forum Address *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
- 'Peace Village' Built With U.S. Charity Fund *[VNA]* 71
- Vo Van Kiet Receives Finnish Businessmen *[VNA]* 72
- Ho Chi Minh City Signs Tourist Contracts *[VNA]* 72
- First Foreign Bridge-Building Contract Won *[Hanoi TV]* 72
- Ho Chi Minh City Guides Party Congresses *[Hanoi Radio]* 72
- Military Institute Views Draft Documents *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
- Press Meeting Held on Renovation of Youth Work *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
- Nguyen Khanh Attends Meeting in Youth Institute *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
- Le Quang Dao Works With Nationalities Council *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
- Nguyen Khanh Attends Anti-Illiteracy Conference *[Hanoi TV]* 74
- Dam Quang Trung Attends School Anniversary *[Hanoi Radio]* 74
- Vo Chi Cong Visits Gia Lai-Kon Tum Province *[Hanoi Radio]* 74
- Rice Cultivation, Output Nationwide Reviewed *[VNA]* 75

## Japan

### Nakayama To Push To 'Reactivate' U.S. Ties

*OW1903012591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0047 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will leave for the United States on Wednesday on a mission to "reactivate" Japan-U.S. relations, damaged in the course of the Persian Gulf war, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Officials said Nakayama will confer in Washington on Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and possibly President George Bush on bilateral political and economic ties, postwar Middle East issues, the two countries' policies toward the Soviet Union, and matters affecting the Asia-Pacific region.

Nakayama will also hold talks with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller in New York on Saturday before returning to Tokyo.

But Nakayama's primary task, according to one senior Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, will be to improve the soured relations between the two economic powers.

"Over the past half-year of the post-cold war era, and having gone through the Gulf crisis, a kind of mutual frustration has started to smolder between Japan and the U.S.," the official said.

He cited in particular increased American criticism of Japan, stemming from the widespread perception that Japan's contributions to the multinational effort to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait were insufficient.

Japan was the third highest financial contributor to the U.S.-led effort behind Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but did not provide soldiers or other personnel.

Officials said Nakayama will attempt to ease the present "agitation" by stressing the importance of maintaining strong ties between the two powerful democracies that are strongly linked economically, socially, and in terms of security.

They said Nakayama will be addressing a broad audience by meeting not only with representatives of the U.S. Government, but also members of Congress and the media.

The foreign minister is expected to press for a date to be set for talks between Kaifu and Bush in Washington before July's gathering in London of the heads of seven leading industrialized nations for their annual meeting.

The postponement of Bush's visit to Japan, originally anticipated for March, was attributed by Washington to the war, but has been viewed by some observers in Tokyo as evidence of Japan's low priority on Bush's agenda.

Aside from mending frayed ties, officials said Nakayama will be outlining what Japan can do in tackling Middle East reconstruction, economic problems, the environment, and regional arms control.

On the Soviet Union, officials said Nakayama will seek a Japan- U.S. consensus on fundamental policy toward Moscow ahead of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's historic visit to Japan in mid-April.

They said Nakayama will explain to Baker the progress of Japan and North Korea's efforts to normalize ties, and efforts to achieve stability on the Korean peninsula.

Security arrangements between Japan and the U.S. are likely to be discussed in an expected meeting on Friday with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Prickly talks on bilateral trade and the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations are anticipated if Nakayama meets with U.S. trade representative Carla Hills as planned, also on Friday.

### Japan To Cooperate With U.S. Commerce Mission

*OW1903120291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0659 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher will arrive in Tokyo on April 2 as head of a mission to promote sales to Japan, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Tuesday.

Mosbacher and his delegation will meet Minister of International Trade and Industry Eiichi Nakao and other government and business leaders during their four-day stay, the ministry said.

The mission members will include J. Michael Farren, undersecretary of commerce for international trade, and top executives of 19 U.S. enterprises.

The mission's arrival marks a concrete step to implement a corporate program mapped out by the U.S. Government recently to promote exports of American goods to Japan, according to the ministry.

Japan will cooperate with the mission to help promote imports from the United States, ministry officials said.

### Gorbachev To Visit Kyoto, Osaka on Trip

*OW1903040991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Kyoto and Osaka as well as Tokyo when he visits Japan in mid-April, Foreign Ministry and Soviet sources said Tuesday.

Gorbachev arrives in Tokyo on April 16 and will leave for Kyoto on April 19 after meeting Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and addressing the Diet, the sources said.

The president will visit Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) and other sight spots in Kyoto and leave from Osaka on April 19.

He has been invited to visit Hokkaido, Niigata, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and other places, but Soviet diplomatic sources said Kyoto and Osaka are sensible cities to visit because of security reasons.

Gorbachev has also been invited by six universities, including the University of Tokyo and Waseda University, but it has not been decided which he will visit, the sources said.

### Stand on Return of Northern Islands Softened

*OW1903074791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japan will drop its demand that Moscow return all four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido at once, provided the Soviets return two of them and promise to return the others later, sources in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Tuesday.

Japan will seek to win the return of Shikotan Island and the Habomai Island group first, and agree to a phased turnover of the other two islands—Kunashiri and Etorofu—as long as the Soviets accept Japanese sovereignty over them, the party sources said.

In return for Soviet concessions, Tokyo will offer economic aid to the Soviet far eastern province of Sakhalin and grant permanent residence to Soviet residents of the islands who want to remain.

Japan will also reportedly promise not to put any military bases on the islands.

LDP officials will present this position during a mission to Sakhalin, the sources said.

The mission, headed by Koko Sato, acting secretary general of the LDP, left Tokyo on Tuesday on a three-day visit to Sakhalin.

The islands, occupied by the Soviets at the end of World War II, will be the main topic in the talks between the LDP delegation and Sakhalin Province officials, the sources said.

Sato, a member of the House of Representatives, said he prepared the proposal with the understanding of LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who is planning a trip to Moscow, the sources said.

In a nonbinding referendum Sunday, 70.2 percent of the residents on Kunashiri, the Habomais and Shikotan opposed the islands' return to Japan, while 21.9 percent approved. Answering a differently worded question, 81.3 percent of Etorofu residents opposed the ceding of that island to Japan, while 9.6 percent gave their support.

The dispute over the islands, long a barrier to improved Soviet- Japanese relations, is expected to be a major topic during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled April visit to Tokyo.

### Keidanren Chief Proposes Territorial Return

*OW1903090091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A prominent Japanese business leader expressed support Tuesday for a phased return of four disputed north Pacific islands from the Soviet Union to Japan.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told a news conference he considers it acceptable for Japan to have two of the four islands returned at first, to be followed by the reversion of the remaining two islands later.

Hiraiwa, however, emphasized the plan should be based on a Soviet pledge for the eventual return of all four islands to Japanese rule.

A report Monday from the unofficial Soviet NEWS AGENCY INTERFAX said the Soviet Union may offer the return of the Habomai Islet group and Shikotan when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits Japan in April.

Hiraiwa's remark was regarded as indicating that the powerful economic organization is ready to promote economic cooperation with the Soviet Union when Tokyo and Moscow agree on the settlement of the territorial issue.

The territorial dispute will be high on the agenda for discussion by Gorbachev and Japanese leaders, according to Japanese officials.

### USSR Referendum Held on Disputed Islands

#### 80% Reject Return to Japan

*OW1903052391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0503 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Juzhno-Sakhalinsk, Soviet Union, March 19 KYODO—Over 80 percent of voters on the Soviet-held island of Etorofu rejected the idea of its return to Japan in a nonbinding referendum, officials said Tuesday.

More than 70 percent on the three other islands claimed by Japan also responded in the referendum that they did not approve of reverting to Japanese sovereignty.

But 44.1 percent on Etorofu indicated they would prefer to remain on the island even if it was ceded to Japan.

The Soviet Union seized the islands of Etorofu, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and the Habomais to the northeast of Hokkaido at the end of World War II.

The wording of the survey varies from region to region.

In Etorofu, residents are being asked whether they would agree to return the island to Japan and whether they would stay there if that happened.

Residents of the other three islands are being asked whether they agree to returning all four islands to Japan.

Local referendum committee officials said 86.4 percent of eligible voters in the administrative region where most of the Etorofu residents are concentrated went to the polls.

Of these, 81.3 percent were opposed to returning the islands and 9.6 percent were in favor.

A further 6.4 percent chose of their own accord to write on their return that they would favor a third alternative of joint administration of the islands.

In the electorate taking in Kunashiri, the Habomais and Shikotan, the voting rate was 89 percent. Those opposed to a return of the islands stood at 70.2 percent and those in favor at 21.9 percent.

The vote was conducted at the same time as a nationwide vote on whether the Soviet Union should remain intact.

Despite Japanese insistence on an historic claim to the islands under international law, the referendum is the first attempt in almost 50 years of Soviet occupation to test the opinion of the residents.

Moscow has not said how it will react to the results of the vote, but the question of the islands' return to Japan will be a major issue during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's mid-April visit to Japan.

### Kaifu, Nakayama on Vote

*OW1903054691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said on Tuesday that the result of Sunday's referendum in the Soviet Union was a vote of confidence in President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kaifu said the result would mean a continuation of Gorbachev's perestroyka reform program and was a good omen for the visit to Japan by Gorbachev in mid-April.

Voters in the referendum were asked whether they favored a renewed federal structure for the Soviet Union. The referendum resulted in a majority "yes" vote.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama avoided direct comment on the results.

"That a closed Soviet Union introduced a system to gauge the will of its citizens should be appreciated as one way to democratize," Nakayama said.

### Spokesman Discounts Public Opinion

*OW1903114791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japan's top government spokesman on Tuesday discounted Soviet public opinion against the return of four Soviet-held islands to Japan, saying it was irrelevant to government negotiations.

"The (poll results) are nothing more than domestic Soviet opinion," Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said. "Japan- Soviet relations must be considered separately."

"The most important factor is government-to-government negotiations," Sakamoto told a regular news conference.

Sakamoto added that Japan hopes to see significant progress in negotiations when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev comes here April 16-19.

Gorbachev will be the first Kremlin leader to visit Japan.

"We want to move ahead with Japan-Soviet relations, which have been cold and motionless for a long time," Sakamoto said, describing Gorbachev's visit as "the big turning point of the past half century."

"Of course, the first step in this new major exchange is the territorial dispute. There is no change in our determination," he said.

Meanwhile, Liberal Democratic Party sources said that Japan will drop a demand that all islands are returned simultaneously as long as the Soviets return two, and promise to return the others.

The Soviet Union hinted Tuesday that it may be willing to return Shikotan and the Habomai Island group if Japan abandons its claim to the other two islands.

A nonbinding referendum conducted Sunday showed 70 percent of residents of Kunashiri, the Habomais, and Shikotan are opposed to the return of the islands to Japan, with 22 percent in favor.

In the poll conducted on the fourth island of Etorofu, 81 percent of residents opposed the return of the island to Japan, with 10 percent voicing support.

### Minister To Invite Cambodia's Son Sann To Visit

*OW1903023191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Tuesday that Japan will invite Son Sann, the leader of a noncommunist Cambodian resistance faction, to visit Japan from March 25 to 30.

Son Sann, who is prime minister of the tripartite Cambodian resistance coalition government fighting the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government, will exchange views with Nakayama on the Cambodian question, Foreign Ministry officials said.

## Kaifu To Form Peacekeeping Advisory Group

*OW1903040491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0308 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is to launch an advisory group next week to discuss Japan's role in international peacekeeping in the 21st century, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said Tuesday.

Kaifu will hold monthly meetings with opinion leaders representing business, labor, and academic circles to exchange views on Japan's responsibilities and contribution to maintaining international peace, the government spokesman said.

Sakamoto said Japan's participation in United Nations peacekeeping forces, the security of Japan, and Official Development Assistance, are likely to be discussed by the 21-member group.

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, debate has heightened on issues such as whether Japan should link its development aid to arms control by recipient nations, and ways for Japan to participate in UN peacekeeping operations under restrictions imposed by its war-renouncing Constitution.

Sakamoto said he and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will also attend the meetings.

Members of the panel, to be called the International Cooperation Advisory Group, include Takuji Matsuzawa, chairman of the Board of Councilors of Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Akira Yamagishi, head of the Rengo Labor Confederation, and Atsuyuki Sassa, a former chief of the Cabinet Security Affairs Office.

The first meeting is slated for March 28.

## Kaifu Remarks on Political Reform, Minesweepers

*OW1903112791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] A general interpellation of the Diet on the budget bill for fiscal 1991 started today at the Upper House Budget Committee. Regarding political reform, which is a major task of the Kaifu cabinet, Prime Minister Kaifu explained his view that he would like to introduce relevant bills to the Diet by the end of April.

The general interpellation on the budget bill for fiscal 1991 at the Upper House Budget Committee is scheduled to be held for six days until 3 April. Ryoichi Yasutsune, member of the Japan Socialist Party, was the interpellator this morning, the first day of the session.

[Begin recording] [Yasutsune] What is happening to the political reform for which you declared that you would stake your political career? You even set a clear date for it. You pledged that you would accomplish political reform in time for the convocation of the memorial ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of establishing the parliamentary institutions. The memorial ceremony was held late November of last year, and four months have passed since then. Moreover, your tenure of office as a president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] will expire in October this year, so you only have six more months left. How are you going to assume responsibility for the fact that the deadline you set, upon which you pledged that you would stake your political career, has passed?

[Kaifu] I would like to form a definite plan as soon as possible to be able to hold a debate at the Diet. I asked the Election System Research Council of the LDP the other day to form a concrete plan by the end of April. I will do my best to tackle the issue. [end recording]

In this way, Prime Minister Kaifu explained that he would like to introduce bills regarding political reform to the Diet by the end of April.

Moreover, Mr. Yasutsune asked a question regarding a plan, which is under investigation as one of Japan's postwar Gulf contribution measures, to dispatch Self-Defense Force [SDF] minesweepers to remove mines in the Persian Gulf. He said that Japan should not send the minesweepers. In response, Prime Minister Kaifu stated: The government has not made a decision on whether or not it would dispatch the minesweepers. We will try to grasp the actual on-the- spot situation and carefully deal with the issue. Thus, he explained again that he would deal carefully with the issue of dispatching the SDF's minesweepers.

## Parliamentarians Urge DPRK To Let Wives Return

*OW1803122791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—A nonpartisan parliamentary group called on North Korea on Monday to allow Japanese women living there with their Korean husbands to return home.

Most of the women, who Pyongyang says number around 1,700, moved to North Korea some three decades ago with their Korean husbands, who had been residents of Japan. Tokyo complains that the women have not been allowed to visit or write their families in Japan.

The parliamentarians hope to send a delegation to Pyongyang to urge (North) Korean Workers Party Secretary Kim Yong-sun to settle the issue.

The group will also press North Korea for a solution through the Japanese delegation to a meeting of the Interparliamentary Union slated in Pyongyang next month.

North Korean chief delegate Chon In-chol said during recent talks on normalizing relations with Japan that if the negotiations go smoothly, requests for visits to relatives in Japan might be met on a "case by case basis" even before the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Noboru Nakahira, chief Japanese delegate to the talks, told the parliamentarians Monday that Japan hopes to settle the issue on a "humanitarian basis" separate from the normalization talks.

### Ex-Minister Supports Early Discount Rate Cut

*OW1803183191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1505 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Former Finance Minster Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday urged an early cut in the official discount rate in order to stimulate the Japanese economy.

In a meeting with Michio Watanabe, former chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, Miyazawa biamed the Bank of Japan's reluctance to cut the key lending on strict BIS (Bank for International Settlements) capital adequacy requirements.

It is the first time Miyazawa has commented publicly on the BOJ's present tight credit policy.

Watanabe also said the central bank should reduce the key lending rate, now at 6 percent per annum, by the end of next month.

He was also critical of the BIS rule, which he said will hamper Japan's ability to provide aid to Eastern Europe.

Japanese bankers have grown cautious about lending since they are required under BIS rules to expand their capital to at least 8 percent of risk-weighted loans by March 1993.

### Finance Minister Reacts to Call

*OW1903041291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0246 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Tuesday expressed displeasure at calls from influential figures within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] for a cut in the official discount rate.

Hashimoto was referring to reports on Monday that two former finance ministers, Kiichi Miyazawa and Michio Watanabe, shared the view that the discount rate, currently at 6 percent per annum, should be lowered to shore up the economy.

"I've heard nothing whatsoever about such terrible stories," said Hashimoto, adding "It seems that Bank of Japan 'branches' have been set up all over the place."

The remarks reflect the finance minister's dissatisfaction with "intervention" by influential LDP leaders in monetary policy. Both Miyazawa, a former deputy prime minister, and Watanabe lead LDP factions.

On the current dollar-yen exchange rate, Hashimoto said the Japanese currency now stands at an "undesirable level."

But he added he doesn't think the current strength of the dollar will affect prices in Japan.

On Tuesday, the dollar opened 0.78 yen higher at 138.43 yen on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market, extending its overnight strength in overseas trading.

### More on Minister's Remarks

*OW1903085191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Tuesday that he is not so far considering changes in the current tight monetary policy, including controls on bank lending for real estate-related investment.

Speaking at the day's meeting of the House of Councillors budget committee, Hashimoto said it is necessary to continue the current monetary policy for a while, in order to avoid the same problems in future of excessive lending for real estate-related investment, which created the so-called "bubble" gains in land and other prices.

The Finance Ministry in March last year asked financial institutions to keep growth in land-related loans below the growth rate in overall loans.

As a result, Japanese bank loans for such investment declined sharply, but economists and the real estate industry have pointed that the restriction also caused more bankruptcies, and have expressed hopes for an early easing of monetary policy.

The finance minister, however, said that excessive hikes in land prices in Japan for the last several years were partly caused by the longlasting easy money policy that prevailed since September 1985, following the so-called Plaza Accord on currency rates among the major industrial nations.

He said the monetary authorities regret they could not correct the belief in Japan during the time land value was rapidly rising that land prices would never decline.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is now tabling a tax proposal aimed at taking a bite out of Japan's bloated land prices, Hashimoto said, and renewed his call for support of the measure by the upper house.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, who also addressed the upper house meeting, also showed reluctance to ease monetary policy.

Citing examples overseas, he said if monetary policy were eased despite existing fears of inflation, such a course could cause stagflation, where inflation and recession go together.

### Defective Part Linked to Nuclear Plant Accident

*OW1803134091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1325 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—A part whose incorrect installation has already been linked to an accident last month at a Fukui Prefecture nuclear power plant was also deformed, sources at the Natural Resources and Energy Agency and Kansai Electric Power Co. said Monday.

The so-called antivibration bar (AVB) is supposed to hold together the tiny pipes that carry high-pressure boiling water in a series of loops in a nuclear reactor's steam generator. The device is designed to reduce the vibrations that can cause metal fatigue.

But in the case of Mihama Nuclear plant's No. 2 reactor, the normally V-shaped AVB had an extra bend in the middle, the sources said.

The agency said last week that the AVB was not installed around as many pipes as called for in the reactor's blueprints.

On February 9, one of the pipes that should have been held in place by the AVB broke, allowing 55 tons of radioactive water to leak from the primary cooling system to the secondary system that powers the plant's turbine.

This led to activation of the reactor's emergency core cooling system, averting a possible meltdown, in the first incident of its kind in Japan.

Last week, the agency announced the misplacement of the AVB may have been the direct cause of the accident and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the reactor's manufacturer, admitted responsibility for not having installed the AVB according to specifications.

### Roundtable Discusses Solutions to Labor Problem

#### Coping With Labor Shortage

*912A0135A Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Jan 91 pp 12-19*

[Roundtable discussion with Haruo Shimada, Keio University professor, Small and Medium Enterprises Council Policy Subcommittee Chairman; Reiko Okutani, president, Za Aru Company; Tsutao Shimizu, director general, Labor Relations Bureau, Ministry of Labor; Yuji Tanahashi, director general, Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of International Trade and Industry]

[Text] **Reflecting the recent business expansion, the labor shortage is becoming a grave situation. Small and medium enterprises in particular are suffering such heavy damage that "labor shortage bankruptcies" are arising. Responding to the labor shortage is becoming the greatest management issue.**

**A change in the values of workers is thought to be an indirect cause of the labor force shortage. Aiming for ease and affluence, the inclination that one's own living is more important than work is rising. Particularly in regard to the young, labor force mismatches are growing in terms of regions, industries, and occupations.**

**In this special edition, other than having the present state and problem points concerning the labor force problem discussed in a symposium, we had contributions from the standpoints of management and labor. Moreover, we will introduce the movement of 1991's "Policy To Secure Manpower for Small and Medium Enterprises."**

**In reaching a situation of near total employment, with a 2.2 percent unemployment rate and a high level in the effective job offers rate, the labor shortage problem is becoming more and more severe. Therefore, we had a discussion from many perspectives on the labor force problem.**

[Tanahashi] The labor shortage problem at this point is becoming a more and more severe situation. As the Ministry of International Trade & Industry [MITI], we think economic growth of around four percent is necessary for 1991 as well. However, with the labor shortage the way it is now, it is natural that various problems will arise in economic operations on the whole. There are two sides to the labor force problem. One is a short-term situation, the postwar's second longest-running business cycle, which exceeds 48 months. Another is a problem of structural employment: in the 1990's, the productive age population will shift downward for the first time. Today, I think I would like to ask your opinions on these points from various angles.

#### Adding to Degree of Seriousness, Labor Shortage of Small and Medium Enterprises

[Tanahashi] Well, as in the rumors of bankruptcies due to the labor shortage, it is the small and medium enterprises in particular that are suffering from the labor shortage. In their case, although their labor conditions and health and welfare facilities are being improved, there is a great disparity compared to the large enterprises. Also, there is the so-called 3K labor environment. Recently, however, a fourth and fifth K—"kyujitsu ga sukunai" [few days off] and "kakko warui" [unfashionable] have been added to "kitsui" [difficult], "kitanai" [dirty], and "kiken" [dangerous]. What kind of policy must we devise in regard to these points? I think I'd like to have Professor Shimada start the conversation.

[Shimada] I will offer my feelings on the recent employment situation, centering on the employment problems of small and medium enterprises. First, there is the relationship between short-term changes in business conditions and the labor supply-and-demand balance. In 1986, the unemployment rate rose when growth did not reach three percent. Around the spring of 1987, there was even talk that an era of unemployment was perhaps coming. But afterwards, the Japanese economy sustained high growth on an annual base of five percent and has continued a long-term, continuous economic expansion that will soon reach 50 months. This is having a great impact on the labor supply-and-demand balance.

I see the attitude of large enterprises in hiring the young as perhaps further accelerating [the shortage]. After the oil shock of some 10 years ago, large enterprises on the whole held back from hiring; rather, they strove for employment adjustment. As a result, because the labor composition of the young became shallow in the second half of the 1980's, large enterprises grew worried when they saw the business expansion. In 1988 and 1989, they all raised their hiring plans. For that reason, the small and medium enterprises' labor shortage became all the more serious.

Another thing that is making the situation especially more difficult structurally is the remarkable change in the values of the young. The so-called part-time freelancers are a good example, but today's youth do not want to do 3K or 4K work because they think they can eat even if they do not have a steady job. Consequently, small and medium enterprises are in a situation where they have to struggle to get people in fields that are hard and whose working conditions are not terribly good.

Mismatches are now a problem. But if we try various analyses, it is with the young, males in particular, that mismatches greatly emerge. Speaking of mismatches of the young, one is that labor-intensive industries truly want the young so bad that they can taste it, but hardly any young men go there. Another example is that there is a youth shortage in every region of the countryside. In this way, the mismatch of the young with regions, industries, and occupations on the whole is severe. I think that the employment environment for small and medium enterprises is probably becoming severe for a variety of reasons.

[Tanahashi] The Ministry of Labor [MOL] and MITI have the precedent of producing laws together regarding the problem of a lack of personnel in software and, moreover, of developing regional policies. But both ministries at present are studying together how to respond in combining labor and industrial policies to secure personnel for small and medium enterprises, and case by case, are preparing legislation for 1991 or improving such policy tools as the finance and the tax systems. I would like to hear from Director General Shimizu on these points.

[Shimizu] As you indicated, the present labor shortage is in effect a labor shortage for small and medium enterprises. In the case of large enterprises, even though there are problems in peripheral sectors, one cannot see them basically in trouble. I think, looking at various statistics, that this is clear. I think there are two characteristics to this labor shortage. One is that the resiliency in the rate of labor increase as against economic growth became extremely high in 1989. But this period is the one in which large enterprises began hiring young people all at once. Adding the change in the values of workers to this, it had an entirely bad influence on small and medium enterprises.

Another characteristic is that there is the feeling that if voices crying about a labor shortage arose, we would feel wages rising more than they have, based on experience until now. But can't it be said in general that wages are settled? To put it the opposite way, isn't it that there is the feeling that—if people are coming to the large enterprises to that extent—they will not come to the small and medium enterprises even if they raise their wages?

Therefore, small and medium enterprises themselves are well aware of this. Working hours, a good workplace environment, abundant welfare facilities, and such are indispensable, but these do not mesh well with productivity increases. In order to make small and medium enterprises attractive in a form matching the values of workers these days in particular, together with such a worker policy, improved management, technology development, and an approach from the management side are by all means necessary. From this viewpoint, MITI and MOL together are trying to advance policies for small and medium enterprises. Concerning the existing policies already budgeted, they are developing jointly in a mutually extended form through each local office of the central government. Combined, won't a policy be devised for securing labor for small and medium enterprises in the form of a joint law? We are having it studied jointly now.

Also, in the case of small and medium enterprises, they have little capability, by themselves, of attractively competing with the large enterprises. Therefore, we are having them bring out their knowledge of making themselves attractive in the form of shopping districts and cooperatives, and we are helping to pay a part of a joint policy concerning necessary implementation expenses. Won't it be a great step forward if this kind of cooperative system between ministries and agencies goes well? Perhaps there are many difficulties in the details, but I think I would like to make it succeed somehow.

[Tanahashi] President Okutani, through your experience in managing a growth industry, what do you think of the labor shortage problem for small and medium enterprises?

[Okatani] Even speaking of small and medium enterprises in one breath, isn't it that the disparity has become severe between places that draw people and those that don't? Also, it's the same for large enterprises as well, but the content of work is changing considerably and a gap is emerging between personnel until now and necessary personnel. Therefore, in the end, enterprises will automate their factories and offices. Then there will be a lack of people to operate the automated equipment. In such a way, it becomes two or three kinds of labor shortage. I feel that it is perhaps becoming a panic situation. Our so-called new businesses are relatively easy to attract people, but if you speak of conventional old businesses, the foremost problem in not drawing people is that the consciousness of the managers is not in step with the times. In short, this is particularly outstanding for managers who worked their way up. They insist on their own philosophy of sweat, effort, perserverance, and tenacity. I feel that they are unable to deal with the change in the values of the young. Also, in the case of small and medium enterprises, it would be a good thing if they tried to make their age and sex limits more flexible and tried acting in their thinking like large enterprises. As a result [of these limits], isn't it that there are times when we let talented people escape before our eyes? In instances of so-called 3K and 4K work as well, I think that because people are drawn where factories and offices are clean, for example, it is most necessary that managers respond to the times.

### Amidst Reality of Reduction in Productive Age Population

[Tanahashi] Next, the productive age population will decline in the 1990's. It is predicted that there will be a lack, in particular, of a youthful labor force. What do you think concerning this structural problem?

[Okutani] There is much talk of a labor shortage, but the large enterprises employ three or even five people where one or two would do. They are almost all using people in an extravagant fashion. Also, busy sections are always busy, while slack ones are always slack. This imbalance, too, is rather remarkable. Because business is good and every single enterprise is to some extent well off, each is hiring people in thinking only of arranging the number of heads. I have the feeling that the function of checking carefully the appropriate placement of personnel may be rather relaxed. Actually, we are in the business of dispatching personnel [Ms. Okutani runs a temporary personnel agency], but there are a considerable number of cases in which the dispatched personnel would like to quit because of too much slack time. I think that if you appropriately check the necessary personnel, you may be able to cut about 30 percent.

[Tanahashi] I heard a somewhat surprising story. Large enterprises are also striving for rationalization recently, so I was wondering if they're jammed with staff? Is that the case?

[Shimizu] Ultimately, enterprises hire people in response to the level of short-term production activity and, at the same time, from a medium-term viewpoint. It is a commonly known fact that Japan hereafter will be waiting for an absolute decline of the productive age population. Therefore, at this time, there is a mindset of hiring when you can. Isn't it that it assumes a role in greatly raising the elasticity of employee increases in economic growth?

[Tanahashi] Professor Shimada, what do you think?

[Shimada] This is a comparatively complex problem. I think it would be better to set the terms and understand it. Labor force cost is one problem. Japan at present has become the world's number one high-wage country when calculated by the exchange rate. Even so, only the manufacturing industries' production processes are becoming production structures commensurate with that. In other fields, as Ms. Okutani said just now, the wasteful use of people—such as having a university graduate carry around a superior's briefcase—still remains from the era of cheap wages. Wouldn't it be good if the indirect sectors took advantage of the production process sectors that are achieving an internationally high level of productivity?

The regional problem is another one. It is the case that, amidst people now concentrating in large cities, continuing business is becoming difficult in the countryside even for superior enterprises. But resolving this, it is not a problem that can be controlled by offering employment insurance, training or employment information, or only by the labor policies that MOL has traditionally had. MITI's industrial policies more directly influence management, but in fact even those alone don't suffice. That is to say, young people are drawn to Tokyo, where living conditions are so bad, because there is new information there. In order to turn this around we will have to build in the countryside an infrastructure that creates information capable of competing with Tokyo. Aviation and communications policies are necessary—for example, the extension of international flights and the elimination of the disparity in telephone charges. If we don't do that, I think small and medium enterprises in every area throughout the nation will be in bad shape. The cooperation between MOL and MITI that I've heard now is encouraging, I think, but I think I'd like to have it broadened to other ministries and agencies as well. If not, I feel that the people will not be helped.

### As Women and Elderly Join the Labor Force

[Tanahashi] Amidst the above structural changes, it is natural that the elderly and female labor force should come into the limelight. Both have various problems, legal ones included, but what do you all think?

[Shimizu] The other day, we put out "An Employment Vision for a Long-Lived Society" by the Employment Security Bureau. When a working group that includes academics made a simulation to the year 2000, hypothetically keeping growth at 4 percent, the result was a desirable pattern from 1995 to 2000 of a 0.5 percent annual increase in the number of employed, a rise in productivity of 3.5 percent a year, and an unemployment level of 1.8 percent. Among these, the 0.5 percent increase in the number of employed, in the midst of a reduction in the productive age population, means that we will have to rely on the entry into the labor market of women and the elderly.

Related to that policy on the elderly, because we amended the law in thinking that we have an obligation to work for the complete fixing of retirement at age 60 and continued employment until age 65, we are advancing policy based on this. Concerning the mandatory retirement age at 60, we would like to realize its complete fixing there in 1993. I think this is possible somehow, but the problem is continuing employment from that until age 65. There is a consensus to this in general, I think, but when it comes to particulars, it is a rather difficult problem for both labor and management.

For example, it is rather difficult for an enterprise to talk about employment until age 65 in the conventional seniority system employment and wage practices, even if nobody feels odd about the elderly working under young people. On top of that, there are many in their sixties hoping for optional employment if there is work suitable for them and under self-management. Recently, as living and income standards have risen, the desire to retire has been growing quite a bit stronger. Therefore, we must make policy from the viewpoint less "to put to good use" than "to have active." Essentially, to put those in their sixties to good use as a labor force, isn't it extremely important to think of it as a problem of the entire social system, including one of considerably devising a structure of personnel evaluation and such?

On this point, MOL is starting the Silver Personnel Center with the aim of having the elderly, in their connection to local society, do local work. But I think from now on we have to broaden fields, the scope of employment.

[Shimada] Speaking of the elderly, I think the private sector and government both should do various things. Private employers are all unanimous: "We'd like people, but we do not need any past their mid-fifties. That's because when they pass their mid-fifties, they don't have their previous high energy level...." However, if you look at the political and financial world, there is any number of people working energetically on the frontlines into their sixties and seventies. Despite this, why does that kind of response [from employers] come back? Thinking it over, the use of people is the problem. In short, people brought up in the bad mark system get tired out around that time. But people raised in a world where one can achieve results the more that points are given are stimulated. Mr. Shimizu just now raised personnel evaluation as a problem, but I think private enterprises will have to change the bad mark system [in use] until now to a points system in order to ride out the personnel difficulties period from here on out.

On the other hand, related to the government, I feel that what MOL and MITI are doing concerning the elderly problem is not meshing. For example, pensions are reduced at present in cases where income is above a certain level. But this only cuts down the will to work, however much there is. We must make a device that only the part that made an effort returns. This is not to determine the reduction rate by income class. One thing I would like is for the Ministry of Health and Welfare to commence a way of determining that covers fixed coefficients and multipliers. One more thing is that I think we should consider policies bringing merit ratings—for example a lowering of the pension contribution rate—for enterprises that employ a high ratio of elderly. If we do this, there will be a policy incentive at work. In that sense, I think I'd like to have advanced broad collaboration and cooperation between ministries and agencies.

[Okutani] When I think of the period from now on, I think that how to promote women, rather than the elderly, is the larger issue. The Male-Female Equal Employment Opportunity Law was enacted a full five years ago, but what in fact changed, and in what way? Women, in order to continue work, must overcome marriage, childbirth, and childrearing hurdles. Particularly, if they are aiming for management jobs, they have to display abilities superior to those of their male colleagues. However, in fact, far from nothing changing, I think rather that the reality is more and more divorced from the spirit of the law.

[Shimizu] Speaking in macro-terms, if the female labor force rate rose even five percent, the labor shortage problem probably would blow away. However, the labor force problem is a matter having to do with people who have their respective character and individuality and who pursue their own hapiness and a life worth living. There are connections between women and employment, but since there are many women who, despite their intention of working, have trouble continuing work due to the restrictions of childrearing, caring for sick [relatives], household affairs and such, I think we have to advance as a matter of course the creation of a system for time off from work for childrearing so that they can work while harmonizing their working and household lives.

[Okutani] How in the world would we position female labor? I think the problem is not one of quantity but of quality. As talking of raising the nontaxed limits for part-timers only calls for the emergence of the quantity part, I think this does not become a solution to the problem mentioned.

[Shimada] I cannot accept the view that we will be able to eliminate the labor shortage if the female participation rate rises. That is to say, since the labor market is closely linked to labor conditions, if the labor conditions improve over what they are now, women and the elderly will appear. One other thing is the prohibition against women working past 10 o'clock at night. I think this legal restriction takes away places for women to be active. I think this is probably being examined within MOL, but since women differ from men at least in terms of birth and childrearing and are no less capable than men in strength, spirit, and intellect, it is somehow odd that we don't create conditions so that women are able to display fully their abilities. On this point, Japan's system lags behind by 50 years.

[Shimizu] In aiming for true male-female equality, I think that the trend is for removing that kind of protection. But the reality is that women as before are bearing household responsibilities. The view throughout society is general that household affairs and childrearing are the responsibilities of women. Because women are working amist that [perception], I think that we must advance a consensus of the entire society that the improvement of a working enviroment for all laborers—including men—and household responsibilities are common problems of men and women.

[Okutani] Ultimately, those working full time have quite the sense of unfairness concerning raising the nontaxed [income] limit, even if it's a policy for housewives.

[Shimada] Basically, the problem is that much thinking of the period when Japan was poor remains in various areas. We must escape from the tendency [to think] that just because Japan has become this wealthy, capable people will be compensated if they make an effort. If not, the labor force shortage phenomenon will worsen.

**The Foreign Laborer Problem**

[Tanahashi] Finally, I'd like to ask each of you to say a word concerning the foreign laborer problem.

[Shimada] Concerning foreign labor, I am anxious about the present situation. Speaking of the reason why, the fact is that many foreign laborers are entering Japan's labor market, but there are many cases of illegal employment under the present immigration control law. It is repeatedly the case that they go home eventually. At a time when Japan is concluding intimate relationships of interdependence, mutual cooperation, and mutual understanding with neighboring countries, there is the possibility, if we continue the present situation, of it becoming extremely negative in the most important area of person-to-person contact. This would be extremely bad for Japan's security.

Turning this around, creating a structure of fair-minded employers accepting for a fixed time considerable numbers of foreign laborers in order to teach them sound technology, paying them a salary, and having them return to their countries with good thoughts is necessary in order to heighten a trust in Japan among the nations that surround Japan. We can do this by changing the system by only a little. If we leave it as it is now, I feel that there will only be an increase in the number of people with unpleasant feelings who had bad experiences in Japan.

I think that we shouldn't directly link the labor force shortage and foreign laborer problems. That's because the labor shortage problem is one of structural reform within Japan and the foreign laborer problem is one of heart-to-heart contact with the people of neighboring countries. Therefore, I think that the government and the private sector together should change the program to create a feeling of trust in the nations that surround Japan.

[Okutani] Professor Shimada's opinion was very helpful, but I think that white-collar laborers are different from blue-collar ones. In the case of white-collar laborers, I think I would like to put to good use, say, that which exchange students learn in Japan when they go home. Therefore, I think Japan's corporate side has to have not a cost-conscious idea of [foreign laborers'] quitting after three or five years without pay, but a deep conception of having them in five years learn technology and also having them understand Japan well.

As for the blue-collar workers, they are now coming in and working illegaly in the guise of studying Japanese. But I think, rather, shouldn't we build technology centers in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, conduct technical guidance, and build a system of sending them for corporate training to Japan for three years if that's the case?

[Shimizu] I'm also basically thinking along those lines. This problem is often thrown in with internationalization, developing country aid, and labor force shortage—and they're all debated together—but this won't do. We have to think of them seperately as important things and move ahead on examining them. On that point, it won't do to [move] immediately in the direction you two have just said, but I think it may be necessary for each ministry and agency hereafter to do more in cooperating and advancing a policy centered on technology transfer.

Speaking of the relationship with the labor force shortage, you just mentioned figures of 0.5 percent in the employed and productivity increases of 3.5 percent in order to sustain 4 percent growth, but is 3.5 percent productivity growth really possible? In the case where it falls below that, there will perhaps be the argument that we will have to depend on foreign laborers for the increase in the employed. But in that case, there are several points we have to make clear. One is that the greatest goal of economic policy is the achievement of full employment. What in the world kind of character is economic growth surpassing full employment and letting in foreign laborers? Also, what kind of economic society would that be? Moreover, foreign laborers remit money to their countries, so to what extent would that affect the Japanese economy? I feel that we have to explain these points economically as well.

However, because there is the possibility of an even bigger debate emerging in the next few years, I feel that we should do our best at this stage to perform a thorough investigation including the merits and demerits [of foreign labor] and prepare to present materials with which to make a decision when the people will decide.

[Tanahashi] The themes that I've heard you discuss today are of a depth and breadth that the talk hasn't exhausted, but I'd like, given space considerations, to put a period to the discussion here. Thank you.

## Personnel Administration Reform

*912A0135B Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Jan 91 pp 20-21*

[Article by Yasuichi Ogawa, executive director, Nikkeiren]

[Text] These days, one often hears that we must change the social system that has supported our nation since the war. Corporate personnel management is no exception. The cause is the great changes in both supply and demand as they relate to employment. For example, there is the microelectronic (ME) revolution's bringing great change to the terms of production and office labor, the advancing of corporate international development, and the rapid growth in labor force demand in various service fields. On the other hand, on the labor force side, in addition to rising academic credentials and aging, there is rapid progress in women's social advances, change in the outlook of workers, and so on.

Enterprises have made an effort these past few years, even while repeating trial and error, to reexamine and adapt the so-called "Japanese personnel management system" built after the war to a new era. But the labor shortage, which has been revealed suddenly and is predicted to continue in the long term, is accelerating this.

I would like to have the reader refer to the following chart [omitted]. This is the new personnel system proposed in Nikkeiren's [Japan Federation of Employers' Associations] "Aging Problem Research Committee Report" published in May 1990. This committee was composed of many corporate personnel managers, but this proposal, which one can say is a concentration of wisdom rooted in the valuable experience of the committee members, can be said to be extremely rich in recommendations.

I would like to enumerate several characteristics. First, the report divided personnel into "stock-types" and "flow-types," making clear the location of both. Briefly, employment practice until now "is to hire new graduates according to academic background, provide development through on-the-job training (OJT), and, while reflecting on the results of examining personnel in promotion and salary within the company, to continue employment in principle until the mandatory retirement age" (from page 66 of the report). That is to say, so-called lifetime employment was the center of what is called here the "stock." In contrast, the new personnel system attempts, in "flow-type" employment that has been seen in the past as an exceptional or temporary form of employment, to accept habitually diverse and capable personnel via the external market from a strategic point of view.

Second, it is an attempt to divide the "stock-type" which could be called conventional employment into several courses and arrange management practices according to the wishes of enterprises and the choice of the employees involved. In particular, I think that it would be good to take notice of the the proposal to involve management practice with the staff and specialist courses. This would have the aim of correcting personnel management centered on management promotions and, in the sense of valuing experience in business and technical fields, establish full-time employment.

Also, as for "stock-type" employment, too, it is a well-known fact that mid-career hiring is being broadly practiced.

Third, the proposal places the employment of the elderly past their mandatory retirement age in the "flow-type" as reemployment work and, according to the degree of the individual's career development during his time on the job, it attempts a broad treatment, including highly specialist work. The corporate system of retirement at a fixed age is being established at 60 years. This system is also making this its premise. From experience, there is also a wide range in adaptability to work and in the individual's life plan from the age of 60. There is also a terribly severe aspect of reevaluating and newly positioning an occupational capability developed over many years on the occasion of the mandatory retirement age. But I think it is the best way truly to put to good use the abilities of the elderly, which are a valuable potential.

Above, I explained, centering on the outline of Nikkeiren's "Aging Problem Research Committee Report," the direction of personnel management system in conformity with the recent changes in industry and corporation as well as with the aging [of the labor force] and the shortage of labor. Moreover, I would like to point out where several basic problems lie.

The era is passing in which personnel of the same caliber were neatly arranged in a pyramid and the concentrated power of the organization was sustained while making promotion to management the greatest incentive. Premised on multiple values and careers, and then personnel structure in a box form in terms of age, how are enterprises which are changing drastically arranging things? Along with the changes in personnel management, the state of flexible organization management not tied down to experiences until now will probably become a major topic.

Next, in considering personnel management, is it not that "a life of ease," along with "a life worth living," will become important factors? At present, reduction in working hours is becoming a major topic. On the other hand, the problem of working women and childrearing is being widely discussed. For enterprises as well, for the time being, I think, will it not be an important theme from the aspect of securing personnel in the future to consider a life of ease, particularly in how to harmonize work life and home life?

### Put People First

*912A0135C Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Jan 91 pp 22-23*

[Article by Yoshimichi Yamada, secretary general, Rengo]

[Text] Japan, in spite of the rise in oil prices accompanying Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the broad drop in stocks, is sustaining its prosperity in almost every industry. Then, regardless of scale, industry, or state of business, cries of a labor shortage are being heard. First four years ago, in order to overcome the strong yen recession, corporate and management rationalization was implemented centering on manufacturing industries including steel and shipbuilding. The memory is still fresh that personnel reductions did in fact take place. Considering the situation that the full unemployment rate was at a rate surpassing three percent, the present situation is a tremendous change.

On the other hand, however, while there are cries of a labor shortage, a great range can be seen depending on the region, legislation for a mandatory retirement age at 60 has not been realized, and employment opportunities for the elderly have not been improved at all. Also, although the social advancement of women is progressing, the response of a support system of time off from work for childrearing remains delayed. A situation called shocking is now arriving with the birth rate at 1.57, throwing a dark cloud over the future of the society.

#### Labor Shortage, a Subject Old and New

The labor shortage problem is not a new one; it is a subject old and new that we have experienced any number of times in the past. In times of surplus or shortage, we appealed for the improvement of employment conditions but, whether large enterprises or small and medium ones, problems repeatedly developed. I wonder how much consideration managers have shown toward workers and company staff. Whether rationalization due to technical innovation, industrial structural adjustment, or whatever the reason, employment adjustment has taken place at those times. In line with whether corporate results are good or bad, with the handling of "people" like buying and selling them as if they were "things," it is not the case that we are able to maintain employment security. Corporate social responsibilities are emphasized, but the time a fired worker suffered, even though he is hired when business recovers and is absolutely favorable, is longer. As a labor union, this point is a fact we cannot forget even if we try, even as there are cries of a labor shortage.

#### For a Response to Foreign Labor Problem That Takes a Hard Look at the Future

The foreign laborer problem also concerns us as we look at the facile concept of depending on foreign laborers for resolving the labor shortage. There is a great possibility that such a concept will leave behind evil roots in the future, a problem not only domestically but one for which we will be held in contempt internationally as well, and we will run down the road of international isolation. What that movement shows is truly a situation about which we should be anxious. Rengo is against accepting the acceptance of foreign laborers for simple labor. We are consistently arguing for acceptance limited to specialist and technical occupations and on the arrangement of an accompanying system. In short, we should make a decisive effort to create a platform for foreign labor to master skills and technology useful to the development of their own nations. Rengo also will not hesitate to respond actively concerning this point. We would like industry's managers also not to think only of the immediate but to consider once again a response fixed on the future.

There are two points that we have to consider as we look at the present labor shortage situation.

#### For A Shift to Society That Puts People First

The first is shifting Japan's society on this occasion from one that puts the economy and industry first to one that puts people first. It goes without saying that under "Industrial Policies in the 1990's" in the "Vision for the 1990's" published by MITI in July of last year, "Going Beyond an Emphasis on Supply and Economic Efficiency" appears in the subtitle. Japan is now at a major turning point. Looking to the 1990's and the 21st century, we are standing at this time—the beginning of the 1990's—at an important crossroads. The situation of the labor shortage these days, too, can be seen as a phenomenon seriously demanding that the people shift their thinking from a priority on economic growth to one on living.

It is being reported, with the "3K's being no good," "the beauties of nature" and such, that the standards of youth's occupational choices are changing (personally, however, it is beyond my comprehension), but we do not dismiss it as simple selfishness. Recognizing the trend at least a little as a fact is necessary. For its resolution, responses are necessary from government, labor, and management respectively. Concretely, there are many problems, such as the labor distribution rate, but what I would particularly want from government, industry, and enterprises is action on the problem of reducing working hours. As the time passes for the government's pledge of 1,800 hours in 1992, I would just like to ask the prime minister what in the world is happening, with 1989's total working hours at a level of 2,076 hours. Rengo is aiming for "1,800 hours in 1993." Each industry separately makes 5-year plans and in this manner is continuing to address the issue seriously, but I am doubtful to what extent the government and enterprises recognize it. This is necessary in a situation that, from the aspect of the International Fair Labor Standard as well, is liable to lead to global Japan bashing. In the midst of the labor shortage voices are heard saying that there is still much overtime, and asking if shortening of hours is not the best chance to create a society that puts people first, it is a good opportunity to escape to attractive industries and enterprises that set a high value on "people." Also, the government should take the initiative and implement without fail the system of two days off per week for public officials. There is the need to overcome somehow the situation of "a rich country and poor people, rich enterprises and poor staff." On this point, there is no argument.

### Personnel Development Itself Trump Card of Response

Second, regarding the problem of this labor shortage, there are two sides: the labor force and personnel. If we do not consider both these sides in tandem, employment policy will not be effective. On the side of the labor force supply, absolutely uneasy predictions of the future are made clear and are heatedly examined. However, on the other hand, the response concerning personnel development, government and industry both are fairly neglectful. With thinking along the lines of, "If we secure labor for the time being," the future of these corporations will be gloomy. Industries and corporations exist for the sake of the people. They arrange an environment worth working in, and for that purpose provide the necessary educational investment and training. There is no disputing the importance of personnel development.

For that reason, starting with this personnel development, I think that the domestic labor force still has an adequate latent power if the government and private sector strongly promotes the various policies necessary for the redevelopment of domestic manpower, such as the arrangement of a base for the handicapped to participate in society, thinking toward human rights problems, and the improved employment of the elderly and women already noted as well.

### For a Society of Ease and Affluence

It is a clear fact that one myth that has continued from the era of high-speed growth, that if companies did well individuals would also do well is now being questioned without waiting for the "Vision for the 1990's" to point it out. In order for Japan, heading toward the 21st century, to be trusted by the world and to build a society full of ease and affluence, and then to realize a society that puts people first, shouldn't we proceed in concentrating on wisdom? Now is the time, a period of labor shortage, for the point of departure.

## Small, Medium Enterprises

*912A0135D Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Jan 91 pp 24-27*

[Article by Hiroshi Ogawa, director, Planning Department Promotion Division, Small and Medium Enterprises Agency]

[Text] Under the present favorable business conditions pressing on the heels of the Izanagi boom, the labor shortage is becoming the greatest management subject of the moment for small and medium enterprises. It is not that words like "labor shortage bankruptcy" are coming to be used, but in the midst of the total number of bankruptcy cases continuing to decline, these alone are steadily increasing. It appears that at some point they will become very familiar words. The labor shortage storm that is attacking the entire nation is causing particular damage to small and medium enterprises. Because small and medium enterprises essentially have small numbers of employees and little fixed-period hiring (many are unable to do so), there are many fragile points related to securing manpower. It is not only that small and medium enterprises are compelled to wage bitter campaigns to hire new graduates because large enterprises, which also feel constricted on future labor force supply and demand, are also planning incrased hiring. With the sudden jump nationwide and in all industries in the effective job offer rate, difficulties are also growing in mid-career hiring, and the small and medium enterprises are gripped with a great feeling of crisis. Personnel difficulties are causing such problems as, an "inability to conduct deliberate business activities," a "rise in personnel costs," and an "inability to digest orders received." Difficulties in finding help have been the top management problem, for nine consecutive quarters, since the third quarter of 1988 (Quarterly Survey of Small and Medium Loan Corporations).

### How To Put Female, Elderly Labor Force to Good Use

There are deep roots to treating this kind of labor shortage, greatly influenced by the business cycle, as a short-term thing.

Our nation's productive age population (ages 15-64) is expected to decline from a peak in 1995. If we base the number of births (recently in a situation similar to that for the **hinoe** year) [Japanese superstition that girls born in the year of the **hinoe** horse, part of the zodiac cycle, will grow up to kill their husbands resulted in a sharp decrease in births the last year it occurred], and the fall (already below the necessary limit to sustain the population) in the combined special birth rate (the number of children a woman will have in her life), we cannot hope hereafter for trend-like increases, although there will be shifts each year. Concerning the youth labor force in particular, we have to be prepared for an unprecedentedly severe situation to continue.

On the other hand, our nation's female labor force rate declines remarkably around the thirties. The labor force rate line traces an M-curve by age. Looking at the cases of other advanced nations, although they once traced the same kind of curve as our country, at present they are shifting upwards and coming to trace a gentle convex pattern. If we can advance the creation of our nation's female labor force rate as well, hereafter, it further rises centered on this group. Also, our nation's society from now on will be aging rapidly, but the increase in the elderly, along with the aging of the labor force, brings an increase in the latent labor force in the elderly group. Creating a work place where they can work and have a life worth living is thought to increase their importance not only as a latent labor force but as a policy to secure and settle the labor force on the basis of each industry. Along with improving the work place for women and the elderly, and instilling in them the will to work and the supply and demand mismatch will be eliminated. If such demand-side policies as labor-saving investment and technical innovation are suitably devised, although the balance in supply and demand is tightening on the whole, it is thought that labor will be secured when looked at over the long-term. However, under the reduction in the absolute amount of the labor force supply, an intensification of the competition to secure manpower on an enterprise basis cannot be avoided. Furthermore, basing the slim resistance to changing centering on the young, putting already secured valuable personnel to better use and advancing their settling [in place] will probably be even more necessary than it has been until now.

### How To Activate the Attraction of Small and Medium Enterprises

Reflecting the people's desire for ease and affluence, the trend toward a priority on an individual's free time and on one's own lifestyle rather than work is rising. In particular, in order to attract the young, it is becoming important to heighten corporate attractions, including the interestingness of work and the multitude of places of activity. Furthermore, heightening the attraction of the work place in order to heighten the settled character of employees is becoming indispensable. For this, in combination with the rise in corporate attraction and image, it is necessary to be advancing actively the rise in such labor conditions as a shortening of working hours, the improvement of the work place environment such as operating facilities, and the rise of health and welfare [facilities].

In these aspects, the disparity between large enterprises and small and medium ones is still large. For example, in contrast to annual nominal working hours (1989) of 1,849 hours for enterprises with more than 500 employees, it was 1,924 hours for those with between 30 and 99 employees. Concerning the introduction rate of the system of two days off each week, that for enterprises between 30 and 99 people was only 49.4 percent, in contrast to a rate of 95.5 percent for those with over 1,000 employees. In regard also to health and welfare facilities such as housing and medical insurance facilities, there were extremely few small and medium enterprises that had them in comparison to large enterprises.

Also, concerning the reduction in working hours, our nation's annual total real working hours are the longest among the advanced nations. From the viewpoint of international harmony, a more active tackling of the problem is demanded. In the latest 5-year management plan, "Japan To Live With the World" (May 1988 cabinet resolution) as well, the goverment's policy is to reduce (to the extent possible) annual total working hours to 1,800 hours. Acording to the 1988 Labor Standards Law revision, a 40-hour work week is the principle. In the law's revision, a postponement is being made related to small and medium enterprises, but this is also in the direction of successive reductions. It is important to seize this opportunity more actively and to realize a reduction in hours.

Furthermore, smallness of scale brings various weak points in origin to small and medium enterprises. But, on the other side, it makes possible the display of special characteristics that large enterprises do not have. Smallness of organization makes possible fine adjustments and flexibility in personnel management. Smallness of staff makes it possible for one person to gain experience in many fields. One can also say that it reduces the distance between managers daily taking leadership on the frontlines and the employees. Also, employees have the opportunity to meet with managers who can respond to them and thus they are able to realize their creativity, and this is an advantage in being a picked few. Putting to good use these merits of small and medium enterprises will be important hereafter in securing a labor force. In that sense, for small and medium enterprises, it will probably be necessary now to recall once that corporate attraction is the attraction of managers.

### Implementing Policies for Securing, Settling Small and Medium Enterprises' Labor Force

MITI's Small and Medium Enterprises Agency (SMEA) should always correct the disparity between large enterprises and small and medium ones in value-added production. It started modernization of equipment and rationalization, but the results of productivity increase (supporting labor savings) in the small and medium enterprises' productivity being applied mainly to increased production and the reduction of necessary personnel, one could not say that the weight given to reduction of working hours was necessarily great. Based on this type of situation, SMEA has planned the fulfilling of policies from the viewpoint of successive labor force maintenance by starting a financial sytsem and labor health and welfare diagnosis for working hours reduction in 1989 and a working environment improvement feasibility study in 1990.

Also, in order to connect organically the various policies between SMEA and the MOL and to advance totally labor force maintenance, settling policies for small and medium enterprises, in April 1990, we established the small and medium enterprises Council to Promote the Securing of Personnel. Other than arranging a cooperative system at the central level, in June 1990, together with establishing the Outline for a Policy To Support Securing a Labor Force, we regulated liaison strengthening between the Commerce and Industry and Labor departments in each prefecture.

In 1991, we are planning the further expansion and strengthening of policies for securing and settling the labor force for small and medium enterprises. By reforming the entire process, together with promoting technology development, etc., in order to improve the work environment, we are trying to fulfill such policies as the expansion of financing an advanced fund loan system for small and medium enterprise business groups.

Also, in the small and medium subcontracting enterprises that account for approximately 60 percent of small and medium enterprises, because they are in a weak position in regard to parent enterprises, there are cases where it is difficult to take days off in their business relationship with the parent enterprises; there are many cases where overtime increases as a result. The present situation is one in which it is difficult to advance a reduction in working hours if there is no parent enterprise cooperation in the aspect of placing orders. For this, we are developing various policies for improving the parent enterprises' way of placing orders in order to reduce the working hours of small and medium subcontracting enterprises starting in 1991. Along with controlling orders placed, which become a hindrance to reducing the working hours of small and medium subcontracting enterprises, we are conducting guidance of parent enterprises and are planning the diffusion of a system contributing to the deliberate production of subcontracting enterprises, such as an unofficial pre-announcement system and a system of a designated delivery day before delivery.

Furthermore, on 1 October 1990, there was an inquiry from the minister of international trade and industry regarding the Small and Medium Enterprises Modernization Council (Toshihiko Yano, chairman) on the policies and their implementation for securing and settling manpower for small and medium enterprises. Discussions were held in the general session of the council's Policy Subcommittee (Keio University Professor Haruo Shimada, subcommittee chairman). He had the section on small and medium subcontracting enterprises (Chuo University Professor Kikutaro Takizawa, section chief) examine problems relating to these enterprises. Based on the results of these examinations, and examining together with MOL the legal measures for totally supporting small and medium enterprises that make efforts to improve working conditions such as in reducing working hours, improving the working environment including operating facilities, and raising the level of health and welfare [facilities], we are attempting to conduct a revision of the promotion standard of the Subcontractors Promotion Law during 1990 as it relates to the problems of subcontracting enterprises.

In order to plan the securing and settling of the labor force, it is necessary to advance the creation of an attractive work place, but this is not something that anyone can simply do in a short period of time. Constant creative devices and management efforts are necessary. However, if we fully put to good use the impetus and creativity that small and medium enterprises possess, I think that securing manpower for small and medium enterprises is by no means an impossible problem. As SMEA, we are actively supporting the tackling of these problems of small and medium enterprises. Borrowing this magazine's pages, along with wishing to ask for the support and cooperation of each of those involved, I do not cease hoping more than anything else that all the nation's small and medium enterprise bussinessmen will tackle the problems tenaciously.

(This article was written in November 1990.)

## North Korea

### U.S. Commerce Secretary Plans To Visit ROK

*SK1803155291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 18 Mar 91*

["U.S. Imperialists' Plot for Colonial Extortion" — KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. secretary of commerce will visit South Korea early in April to have a confab over commercial affairs, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The U.S. imperialists, unable to satisfy their greed for market opening due to the rupture of the "Uruguay Round negotiations" last year, are continuing to put pressure upon the South Korean authorities in a bid to achieve it at "negotiations" this year.

The tour of the U.S. secretary of commerce is part of the plots to press the South Korean rulers to open markets and get a definite answer from them.

The moves of the U.S. imperialists to intensify colonial extortion and the subservience of the South Korean ruling quarters to them are evoking anti-U.S., anti-"government" feelings among the South Korean people.

### U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative Discussed

*SK1903110291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—Bush's new "Star Wars" program, unlike Reagan's program to install enormous multi-strata defense barriers in outer space, is to install many high-performance small-sized interceptor missiles there. This change in the "Star Wars" program is designed to improve the performance of space weapons while diminishing their scale so as to create the impression abroad that this program is "defensive" and calm down accusations from the people at home, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article condemning the U.S. ruling quarters' desperate efforts to gain strategic nuclear predominance by carrying the "Star Wars" program into practice at any cost.

Recalling that Bush requested Congress to increase the funding of this program out of the military spendings for the new fiscal year by 1.7 billion dollars, the article says:

This shows that the U.S. imperialists are desperately trying to gain strategic nuclear preponderance by executing this most adventurous "Star Wars" program, come what may.

The program is a space nuclear war plan for containing socialist countries by strength by achieving strategic nuclear preponderance through militarization of outer space and gratifying their ambition for world supremacy.

It clearly shows once again that the U.S. imperialists have not given up their design to expand their sphere of domination all over the world, but are trying to gratify it by the superiority of strength. Their lip-service to "disarmament," "peace" and the like is nothing but a sophism to veil such design and policy of strength.

To press ahead with the "Star Wars" program is a criminal act of expanding arms race even to outer space and increasing the danger of nuclear war and it is a vicious challenge to the world's peaceloving people.

The U.S. imperialists must give up the "Star Wars" program at once.

## Yi Song-ho Sends Message to ROK Red Cross

*SK1903105991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a telephone message to Kim Sang-hyop, president of South Korean Red Cross.

The message says that two liaison officials will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 3 P.M. on March 21 in order to convey letters addressed to the chairmen of the South Korean General Federation of National Artists, the National Teachers Union, the South Korean Federation of Women's Organisations and the Korean National Council of Women (KNCW) at the request of the chairmen of the Central Committees of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea and the Trade Union of Korean Educational and Cultural Workers and the secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union.

## Meeting Held To Welcome Defector From ROK

*SK1403071291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0556 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—Pyongyang citizens held a mass meeting on March 13 to warmly welcome young man Kang Tae-song who was a member of the medical insurance corporation of Kangjin County, South Cholla Province, South Korea.

At the meeting Kang Tae-song was awarded the Order of National Flag and a large amount of bonus and received souvenirs.

Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, in his speech of welcome highly praised the brave action of youth Kang Tae-song who came over to the bosom of the Republic against the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique as a patriotic deed for the country and the nation and for national reunification. The vice-chairman stressed that a bright future and happiness are in store for him.

Kang Tae-song in his reply address said that the society of the North is stable and all the people are leading a happy life thanks to the man-centred policy of the great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il.

I am proud of having broken with the corrupt society of the South where injustice suffocates justice and money fools with the destiny of people and come over to the bosom of the Republic where the policy for working masses is in force, he said, and went on:

The people of the North are the happiest and most proud people who live harmoniously as brothers and sisters in a happy grand family holding the most benevolent and great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il in high esteem as their fathers.

The socialist North where the working people are living a happy and proud life under the loving care of President Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il is a true motherland for all our nation.

Saying that comparing the South with the North, he keenly experienced how excellent the socialist system in the North is, he stated he would do his best for national reunification, bearing deep in mind this great honor and happiness of coming to the bosom of the benevolent fatherland.

## ROK Army Defector's Interview Reported

*SK1403111791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—Pfc. [Private First Class] Kim Yu-chan of the South Korean puppet army belonging to the Fourth Platoon of the Joint Security Corps of the "U.N. Forces Command" in Panmunjom, who came over to the northern half of the country, was interviewed by home and foreign reporters in the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel today.

Kim Yu-chan, 23, was born in Seoul, studied at the physical education course of the normal college of Sungkyunkwan University from March 1987 and was drafted into the puppet army in 1990. He served at the Joint Security Corps of the "U.N. Forces Command" in Panmunjom from February 1991 before coming over to the northern half of the country across the Military Demarcation Line in the western sector of the front on March 1.

At the press conference, Kim Yu-chan published his "declaration of conscience."

In the "declaration of conscience," he explained the motive of his defection. He said it was because he realized the different positions of the North and the South toward the reunification issue related to the destiny of the nation that he crossed the death line to join the people in the North with whom he had thought he could not live together as he had been captive to ridiculous "anti-communism."

During my university days, I made efforts for reunification while working as general manager and chairman of the "national university choir council" embracing 61 universities and colleges in the South, but in this course I felt more keenly that the authorities did not want the reunification of the country.

The first round of inter-Korean high-level talks held in Seoul in September last year, the North-initiated pan-national concert for reunification and the reunification soccer matches convinced me that the North really wants the reunification of the country.

I did not want to live an oppressed life as a victim to a fratricidal war and a mercenary of the U.S. Army but wished to live a worthy life in a free society, if only a day.

While on duty at Panmunjom, I suffered unbearable national humiliation from U.S. soldiers and lived as a speaking robot, subjected to physical torture, with my human dignity sadly violated.

Shuddering slavery made me want freedom and long for the North and, at last, I came over to the North to do righteous things in a really free society.

In the "declaration of conscience," Kim Yu-chan called on his fellow KATUSA [Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army] soldiers belonging to the Joint Security Corps at Panmunjom and all other soldiers of South Korea to turn the guns to the Americans who block the reunification of Korea.

Answering questions put by reporters, he said the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers are not defensive but offensive exercises for a pre-emptive attack on the North.

Seeing the parachuting exercise of "commandoes," the landing operation exercise and the exercise of preemptive attack on the depth of the North with the help of electronic jamming planes, the KATUSA soldiers do not think they are defensive exercises, Kim Yu-chan added.

The South Korean authorities are making propaganda about "threat from the North" very craftily and persistently, he said, stressing: in the North I have realized this is a sheer lie.

He continued:

In the North the people's Army soldiers are mobilized in construction, not in war exercises.

The North that proposes to adopt a nonaggression declaration will not "invade the South."

The South refusing to adopt the nonaggression declaration intends to "invade the North."

The South Korean people believe that the country will be reunified when they trust and follow the great General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il who truly work for the reunification.

## Reportage on Team Spirit Exercises Continues

### Parachuting Exercises Reported

*SK1403072291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0530 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets held parachuting exercises in succession Tuesday in a real war atmosphere, following the large-scale landing operation in Pohang, according to military sources.

They sent formations of C-130 transport planes carrying a large number of paratroopers to the sky above Hongchon in South Korean Kangwon Province for parachuting exercises for long hours.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists let fly formations of Pacific-based EC-130 jamming planes above Kunsan and Pyongtaek areas in a jamming exercise against the North.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets Tuesday introduced formations of C-141 and C-130 planes carrying many aggressor troops and combat equipment based in the U.S. mainland and Hawaii and the Pacific into the Osan and Kunsan Airfields and held a field exercise of their quick deployment in operational zones.

### 16, 17 Mar Exercises Reported

*SK1903061191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 19 Mar 91*

["'Team Spirit 91' at Its Height"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on March 17 staged a joint aerial exercise for a nuclear preemptive strike at the main targets in the strategic interior of the northern half of Korea in the air above Wonju and Asan Bay, South Korea, by mobilizing nuclear-capable B-52 strategic bombers, F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers they brought from Guam and other overseas bases, according to military sources.

Earlier, on the 16th, they staged a large-scale joint air strike exercise against the North with sorties of 320 warplanes of various types.

On the 16th and 17th, they sent formations of F-16 fighter-bombers and A-4 assault planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce in South Korea to the air above Yangpyong to support the ground strike operation in coordination with F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers belonging to the puppet airforce.

In those days, the U.S. imperialists sent several formations of A-4, A-6 and FA-18 to support a landing operation on the east coast of Korea.

They also sent E-3A early warning plane based in Kadena, Japan, to the air above the Military Demarcation Line area consecutively on the 16th and 17th for the purpose of aerial espionage on the interior of the North.

On the same days the South Korean puppets mobilized ten UH-1 helicopters and several formations of 500-MD armed helicopters carrying many "commandoes" in an exercise simulating infiltration into the depths of the North in the air above Yonchon.

1,240 warplanes of various types made flights over South Korea for the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises on the 16th and 17th.

### Mass Rallies Denounce Exercises

*SK1803155191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 18 Mar 91*

["Aggressors Will Pay Dear"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Mass rallies were held at the Songjin steel complex, the Hungnam fertilizer complex, the Anju silk mill and the Yongchon cooperative farm, Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, to denounce the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

Speakers at the rallies stressed that the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group would pay dear for their criminal joint military exercises.

Speakers at a rally of employees of the Songjin steel complex said that although the Korean people do not want war, they do not beg the aggressors for peace, and warned that if the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group ignite a war of aggression, the Korean people would never forgive them.

Speakers at a rally of employees of the Anju silk mill, referring to the large-scale Pohang landing operation of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group, noted that it shows the military exercises are a test nuclear war, a preliminary war for forestalling attack on the DPRK, not for "defence".

Speakers at a rally of employees of the Hungnam fertilizer complex said that there is no guarantee that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities will not ignite a war against the North. They called upon all to make full preparations and keenly watch the war manoeuvres of the enemy.

At a rally of the Yongchon cooperative farm, Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, speakers stressed that the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army was the just self-defence step of the Republic for the present situation. They called on the entire farmers to live in full combat readiness.

### Exercise Called 'War Rehearsal'

*SK1903050791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0022 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[NODONG SINMUN 19 March commentary: "A Haughty Violent Remark Aimed at Waging a Nuclear War"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to further convert South Korea into a nuclear-war launching site are being carried out shamelessly. According to a report, Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state, has recently officially stated that the United States opposes the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in order to maintain a nuclear deterrent in South Korea. This is a new blackmail of nuclear threat against our people, and maneuvers to accelerate nuclear war preparations.

The remark by the U.S. assistant secretary of state means that the United States will continue to deploy nuclear weapons in South Korea and continue the maneuvers for nuclear arms buildup in the future as well. This is a vicious challenge to peace on the Korean peninsula, in Asia, and in the world, and a provocative outburst against our Republic.

The U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea are a source of immeasurably great national calamity to the Korean people. The U.S. imperialists have deployed some 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea to make it a forefront nuclear attack base against the Republic and socialism as part of its Asian and Pacific strategy.

The U.S. imperialists worked out a nuclear war plan against the Korean people, conduct every year the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which is a test nuclear war exercise to realize it, and are wickedly waiting for the chance to turn it into an actual war at any time. This creates a grave situation leading the Korean peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war. This emphasizes the urgent need for denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

According to the demand of the situation and the yearning of our people and the people of the world, we made a proposal for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which received active support from the peace-loving people of the world. Only the United States turned away from this proposal, revealing its filthy nature as the ringleader seeking nuclear war on the Korean peninsula. By the said remark by Solomon, the United States further reconfirmed this nature.

At the same time when the United States is leading the Team Spirit-91 war rehearsal to a climax, it pronounced its opposition to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. This is a bellicose outburst by the nuclear fanatics. This is a dangerous act like openly hinting that the U.S. nuclear units will trigger a war, and sending a signal to them.

We cannot but pay attention to Solomon's outrageous expression of the U.S. position as it is made at a time when the U.S. ruling circles, which are now more haughty than ever, are seeking a new hot point [yolchom]. This clearly shows that the U.S. imperialists, attaching the greatest importance to the Korean peninsula in their pursuit of world domination, are attempting to light the fuse of provoking a new war there and to use the Team Spirit-91 war rehearsal for that purpose.

The United States is raving about the termination of the cold war and disarmament, but on the contrary, in action, it is heading for nuclear arms buildup and war. They are trying for the so-called nuclear superiority of the United States by intensifying the forward deployment strategy of deploying U.S. forces and nuclear weapons in the major strategic points of the world in advance. The Korean peninsula is the first target of the U.S. imperialists' forward deployment strategy.

The United States is trying to permanently maintain nuclear weapons in South Korea, revealing the devilish murderer's nature of the U.S. imperialists who never hesitate to impose nuclear calamity on the Korean people if it serves their aggressive objective.

The United States has no justification to continue deploying the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea. If they are truly interested in peace in Korea, they should affirmatively respond to our peace proposals, such as the proposal for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, the proposal for replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, and the proposal for tripartite talks.

It is preposterous that the United States should call upon us to accept nuclear inspection. Under the condition where the United States is threatening us by deploying a large number of nuclear weapons, and, moreover, where it is openly claiming that it will maintain them permanently, it is brigandish that the United States should urge us to unilaterally accept nuclear inspection. Such high-handedness [chonhoeng] can never be tolerated.

If the United States withdraws the U.S. forces and nuclear and other lethal weapons from South Korea, it will open a way to firmly guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula.

### Military Analyst's Article

*SK1603125291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0013 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[16 March NODONG SINMUN commentary by military analyst Chang Song-ik, entitled "Team Spirit Joint Military Exercise Is Nuclear Test War To Make Preemptive Attack on Our Republic"—read by announcer]

[Text] The annual Team Spirit joint military exercise, in which large armed forces of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are mobilized, is a preliminary war and nuclear test war for a preemptive attack on our Republic.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is the product of the U.S. imperialists' Asian-Pacific strategy.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: At present, according to its aggressive Asian-Pacific strategy, the United States strengthens its moves to maintain the two Koreas to hold on to South Korea forever as a colonial military base. In addition, the United States has introduced into South Korea nuclear weapons and various modern war means on a large scale. It also frequently has conducted large-scale war exercises, including the Team Spirit joint military exercise, in and around South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists' Asian-Pacific strategy is an aggressive strategy aimed at dominating and subjugating the Asian-Pacific region by resorting to their policy of strength.

All military activities are subject to the military strategy and conducted to realize a task put forward by the U.S. military strategy.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise, annually conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, is precisely one to realize the U.S. imperialists' Asian-Pacific military strategy. Thus, this exercise shows the U.S. line of strength and confrontation against our Republic.

The goal of the U.S. imperialists' policy toward Korea lies in holding on to South Korea as its colonial military base and a nuclear-forward base and in realizing domination of all of Korea, with South Korea as a stepping stone.

To this end, the U.S. imperialists adopt a double-pronged strategy. On one side, the U.S. imperialists try to undermine our socialist system from within by creating social and political chaos by instilling the tenors of liberal democracy into the northern half of the Republic. Through such a method, the U.S. imperialists are trying to realize their ambition to dominate all of Korea without firing a shot.

On the other side, the U.S. imperialists are running wild to achieve their military strategic target by bringing about a full-scale nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists use the Team Spirit joint military exercise as a step toward the achievement of their military strategy of strength.

Given the military forces and military equipment mobilized in the Team Spirit exercise, and given its character and content, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a large-scale nuclear test war to attack the North

Mobilized in the Team Spirit joint military exercise is modern strike equipment, including nuclear weapons, mobile equipment, and large numbers of U.S. and puppet forces armed with surveillance and command equipment. Also mobilized in the exercise are hundreds of warships of various types, including aircraft carriers; thousands of planes, including strategic bombers and fighter bombers; missiles; cannon; tanks; armored personnel carriers; and other ultramodern combat equipment.

Particularly, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is being conducted at the same time that the South Korean puppets declare an emergency wartime system, incite the confrontation between the North and the South, and aggravate the tension. Thus, the exercise becomes more dangerous.

Judging from the shrewd mobilization, concentration, and deployment of armed forces and from the exercise's aim to make a surprise raid on the other side in a war, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a dangerous preliminary war and nuclear test war for a preemptive attack on us.

The mobilization and concentration of military forces and strike and mobile equipment and their deployment in an operational area, are important issues in carrying out military strategy.

At present, under the circumstances in which military and scientific technology is highly developed, it is forbidden for one side to mobilize, concentrate, and deploy armed forces without notifying the other side of such a fact.

Because surveillance equipment is highly developed, it is impossible to secretly deploy large-scale forces into an operational area.

All the local wars that broke out after World War II were started by taking the other side by surprise, without exception, by deploying the armed forces in the operational area in one way or another before starting the war. One of these tactics is to deploy the armed forces pretending to conduct a military exercise.

The U.S. imperialists have conducted the Team Spirit joint military exercise every year since 1976, completing the preparations, through this war rehearsal, to swiftly bring to the Korean peninsula the vast forces and modern military equipment from the U.S. mainland and Pacific region.

In our country where the two vast armed forces sharply confront each other between the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], a war could break out easily through some trifling incident. Under such a condition, if they mobilize vast armed forces under the pretext of a military exercise, assemble them in the South Korean region, and form operational positions to advantage for an offensive, they can complete the strategic deployment for a northward invasion. Under the condition where the U.S. forces in South Korea and the puppet forces intensively positioned most of their armed forces in the operational area and, are deployed in offensive positions, if they properly mix the troops brought from overseas, their strategic deployment for northward invasion is completed. This means that they are realizing an important consideration in carrying out the military strategy, namely, mobilizing, assembling, and deploying armed forces in a disguised manner, wrapping them up in the cloth of a so-called military exercise.

The U.S. imperialists annually have conducted the Team Spirit joint military exercise, scheming to drive the deployed units of the armed forces into a war of northward invasion, if the opportunity is ripe. They are repeating the fire game every year, with the date and time of starting the war kept top secret.

In particular, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets this year raved about the threat of southward invasion, which does not exist, declared an emergency wartime posture all over South Korea, and are waging a test nuclear war exercise, keeping the U.S. forces and the puppet forces in readiness for an emergency dispatch. The emergency wartime posture is a system to adapt the human and material mobilization, production, and the commanding system of the state and the army to the conduct of a war. This is a step taken on the eve of a war or in the process of a war. It is a clear prediction of the danger of war that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets instituted an emergency wartime posture in South Korea and are conducting the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise.

There is no guarantee that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets will not wage a war of northward invasion with some excuse while assembling vast aggression armed forces in the area near the MDL and conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war aimed at waging a preemptive strike on our Republic, because it is a war rehearsal which is basically designed, in the mode of conducting a war, to destroy the military potential of the northern half of our Republic, massively mobilizing modern strike means, such as nuclear weapons and missiles, and to conduct sea and ground wars.

The U.S. imperialists have defined, in recent years, the method of carrying out war as aerial and ground war, and are developing operational and combat actions according to this doctrine. The military doctrine of aerial and ground war devised by the U.S. imperialists is to destroy the military potential of the other side by mixing powerful strikes from the air with strikes from the ground and sea coast, cut off the front from the rear, and achieve the objective of the war by means of a three-dimensional war.

The U.S. imperialists are scheming an indiscriminate strike to destroy not only the military facilities but the production capability of the other side, and to paralyze its transport and command system by using modern strike and mobile equipment. As shown by the Team Spirit joint military exercises conducted so far, the U.S. imperialists conducted all-out aerial strike exercises against the northern half of the Republic, mobilizing nuclear strike equipment, such as nuclear carriers, various planes including B-52 strategic bombers, and missiles.

The U.S. imperialists this year frequently conducted aerial strike exercises in South Korea, even before they announced the Team Spirit 91 joint military exercise, mobilizing numerous planes. With the initiation of the joint military exercise, they are expanding and intensifying these exercises even more.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is being conducted with the largest nuclear arsenal in the Far East, which is full of nuclear weapons of various types, including nuclear shells and nuclear bombs. In the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists are mobilizing the U.S. Seventh Fleet carrier battle group, said to be a mobile nuclear base, B-52 strategic bombers, said to be one of the three pillars of the U.S. strategic nuclear force, F-15 and F-16 fighter-bombers capable of waging a nuclear strike, and Lance missiles capable of firing even neutron bombs. They are mobilizing the all-out nuclear war command plane which is specially designed to command a nuclear war from the air.

These facts prove that the Team Spirit joint military exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists is aimed at waging an all-out nuclear war.

According to the aerial-and-ground war doctrine, the U.S. imperialists are employing combat tactics to intensify the strike deep into the inland of the other side to destroy and annihilate the (?secondary and reserve units) and the fire power of the other side, and to isolate the primary units in the front. In particular, they are maneuvering to conduct disturbance operations, infiltrating the numerous commando units deep into the rear, to attack and destroy various facilities, and to paralyze the command and [word indistinct]. For this purpose, they are conducting exercises in which commando units are assigned to various districts to familiarize themselves with the physical features of the northern half of our Republic.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are continually conducting river-crossing operations and landing exercises from the sea, taking into account the geographical features of the northern half of our Republic so that they can negotiate the rivers and streams, and attack. The river-crossing operation, which is conducted under the ground attack system, becomes a prerequisite for enhancing the speed of the ground attack, and this further proves the offensive nature of the Team Spirit war rehearsal.

The landing operation, conducted during the Team Spirit joint military exercise, is an offensive exercise aimed at attacking the northern half of the Republic. The landing operation is an offensive act from the sea to the land, as stated in the military textbook of the United States. The U.S. imperialists picked the Phang area as the site of the landing operation as it is similar to the coastal features of the northern half of our Republic. They are conducting an exercise in which they land on the coast of the other side, secure the bridgehead, and attack deep into the inland area.

Our country is surrounded by sea on three sides. Hence, historically, the foreign aggressors waged aggression from the sea. During the last Korean war, the U.S. imperialists waged the landing operation on Inchon and attempted a landing operation during the time of the new offensive. In the Team Spirit joint military exercise, they are transporting and deploying troops and firing in a three-dimensional way, and using ground, sea, and air as an operational stage.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets define the war of northward invasion as a five-day war and a nine-day war, and are driving the U.S. forces and the puppet forces to carry it out. Livsey, former commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea, said that they would attack deep into the heart of the North during the Team Spirit 87 war rehearsal, and the previous dictator of South Korea said that although the exercises in the past were negative ones which were mainly designed for defensive purposes, the present one became an offensive exercise which is basically offensive operation-oriented.

A Japanese military critic said that although the United States raves that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a defensive exercise, it has never conducted a defensive exercise, adding that the purpose of this joint military exercise is for the United States to threaten North Korea on the Korean peninsula, and to provoke a war after all.

The facts clearly prove that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not a defensive exercise but a preliminary war and a test nuclear war exercise aimed at invading and attacking the North. Despite this, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets babble about the reduction of the scale and duration of the Team Spirit 91 joint military exercise, pretending that this is an expression of some good intentions for the alleviation of tensions on the Korean peninsula. What should not be overlooked is that there are some people who parrot the words of the warmongers without taking into consideration the provocative and dangerous nature of the Team Spirit 91 joint military exercise.

Originally, the Team Spirit joint military exercise was a test nuclear offensive exercise conducted in accordance with the U.S. imperialist strategy over the Asia and the Pacific region. Therefore, they will never hide its aggressive nature under the pretext of a reduction in size and duration. If a burglar breaks into one's house, a burglar is a burglar whether he uses a short or long sword, and whether he loots its property for an hour or two hours. He is not an innocent.

Even this year, the U.S. imperialists, saying that they will reduce the size of the exercise, have almost all divisions and corps-level commands of the U.S. forces and puppet forces participating in the joint military exercise—mobilizing services and branches of the Army, Navy, and Air Forces from the United States and South Korea in the exercise as they did in the past.

The massive puppet forces, approximately 1 million puppet soldiers, have been entered into an emergency wartime system. Even the quasimilitary forces, like reservists and civil defense units, have been mobilized in carrying out the operational mission.

This proves that the Team Spirit 91 joint military exercise, being conducted around South Korea and surrounding sea areas, and aimed at striking against the northern half of our Republic, is, in deed, a large-scale war act of mobilizing numerous military forces. How can we understand their talks about the reduction of size and duration? The reduction of duration are only empty words as well. Even in the formal announcement by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, it said that the Team Spirit 91 joint military exercise will be conducted from late January to late April this year, as it was conducted last year.

According to the telephone notice sent by the U.S. side's senior member to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] to our side, the Team Spirit field mobilization exercise will be conducted for two weeks this year at the same size as last year, thus starting around the middle of March.

This reveals that even the duration of the actual fighting exercise, which is the peak of the joint military exercise, has not been cut. Therefore, there is no room for discussion, and their talk on reduction of size and duration is absurd as well.

While maneuvering to madly conduct the nuclear war exercise this year, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets make poor and deceitful remarks. This is designed to hide their attempt at aggressive war provocation.

A power balance recently has been broken in international relations. In addition, we will never overlook the grave movement of the United States and South Korean puppets to use for evil purpose the state of the arms imbalance resulting from our reduction—at our own initiative—of 100,000 military forces on the Korean peninsula.

Aggression and war is the only way imperialism can exist. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are frenzied to destroy our Republic with force of arms, while their strategy of peaceful fulfillment cannot be understood today. Therefore, they watch for their chance to do it.

Today, the officers and men of the Korean People's Army and our people, with their highly revolutionary alertness, are paying much keen attention to the Team Spirit91 joint military exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet cliques.

If the U.S.imperialists and the South Korean puppet cliques finally ignite a war, challenging our patient magnanimity, the provokers should clearly understand that they will meet with greater defeat than during the past Korean war. They should behave with discretion.

If the U.S. imperialists, miscalculating our patience as an indication of weakness, finally perpetrate the aggressive war, they will meet death, leaving behind only corpses.

## NODONG SINMUN Views Elections in ROK

*SK1903060591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 19 Mar 91*

["Mist Shrouding 'Fair Elections' Clears Off"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—Men of the "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] of South Korea are directly involving themselves in the "elections" including the registration of candidates through "district party offices" in all areas and the puppet administration has dispatched some 10,000 officials allegedly for "inspection of elections", while carrying on a pre-election campaign, making one liberal "commitment" after another without any guarantee.

This, a NODONG SINMUN news analyst today says, is an outrageous criminal act of the "Democratic Liberal Party" and the puppet administration to directly intervene in the "elections" and play the solo. It is a clear proof of the gangster nature of the No Tae-u ruling group preoccupied with greed for "power".

The intervention of the No ruling group in the "elections" is itself an illegal act and a political suppression.

By openly interfering in the "elections" in disregard of the "elections law" of their own making, the No ruling group makes it self-evident that it is a shameless fascist dictator who stoop to any infamy to remain in power for an indefinite period.

Yet the South Korean authorities are impudent enough to twang the harp of "fair elections" and "democratic elections". This is a dastardly and shameless rigmarole to cover up their fascist intrigues and bind the people of all strata and opposition parties hand and foot.

Nowhere in the world can one find such a fascist society as South Korea where "elections" are carried out in a terror-ridden atmosphere at the point of the bayonet.

It is as clear as noonday that as long as such fascist tyrant as No Tae-u orchestrates "elections" with all powers in his hands, fair elections can not be expected from it and the forthcoming "local assembly elections" cannot but be an unheard-of drama of fascist rowdyism and a solo-play of the "DLP" clan.

### Japanese Official Interviewed on Relations Talks

*SK1503002691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2204 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Tokyo March 14 (KCNA correspondent)—Takagazu Kuriyama, permanent vice-minister of foreign affairs of Japan, met Wednesday at the Foreign Ministry office with reporters accompanying the DPRK Government delegation to the second inter-governmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

He answered questions put by reporters.

Referring to the prospect of the talks, he said since the talks have been held only twice, in Pyongyang and in Tokyo, it has just made the start. There can, of course, be differences between the two countries because they have had abnormal relations for many years, he added.

He expressed the belief that the differences would be overcome before long, provided that both sides promoted the negotiations with sincerity, conscious of the historic significance of the normalization of diplomatic relations. Noting that the negotiations between the sides had entered the full-dress stage, he said the Japanese side would make sincere efforts for a success of the talks.

Pointing out that confrontation and tension continue between countries and nations in Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula and other regions, he noted that it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation to remove such disputes, confrontation and tension.

An Asian country, Japan will make every possible effort to this end, he declared.

### O Chin-u Sends Greetings to Thai Counterpart

*SK1403111891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan, defence minister of the provisional government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Believing that the friendly relations between the Armies of the two countries will continue to develop favorably, the message wishes him big success in his new work.

### Indian Foreign Minister Greets Kim Yong-nam

*SK1503042991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Minister for External Affairs of India V.C. Shukla in a solidarity letter to DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam stressed that India which wants the reunification of the Korean peninsula will support all the efforts of the Korean people to achieve the country's reunification by peaceful means.

He noted that he read with deep interest the part of national reunification mentioned by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

### Kim Il-song Sends Greeting to Tunisian President

*SK1903110691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia, on the national day of his country.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will further develop, the message wholeheartedly wishes the president and his people greater success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

### * LSWY Members Pledge Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

*912C0142 Pyongyang NODONG CHONGNYON in Korean 17 Jan 91 p 3*

[Editorial: "Let Us Continuously Strengthen and Develop the LSWY as Youth Vanguard Rank and File Who Are Eternally Loyal to the Dear Comrade Leader"]

[Text] In a vibrant environment where all the people and youth, highly supporting this year's New Year's message of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song, are advancing the new year's worthwhile great forward march of socialism, we observe with significance the 45th anniversary of the founding of the League of Socialist Working Youth (LSWY).

On the occasion of this felicitous day, we LSWY members and youth look back on the proud journey of the past 45 years that the LSWY has traveled under the refined leadership of the party and the leader and offer our boundless glory and gratitude to the fatherly leader, who founded the LSWY and led it along the one road of triumph and glory, and to the dear comrade leader.

The founding of our LSWY—which is the reserve ranks of the party and a revolutionary youth organization of the chuche-kind—by the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song, was a historic event that gave impetus to a great transformation in the socio-political life of the youth of our country and in the development of the youth movement. With the founding of the LSWY, the youth of our country for the first time in history were brought together into a single mass youth organization and came to be firmly rallied about the party and the leader as a sociopolitical entity and were able to brilliantly pioneer their own destiny.

The great leader Marshal Kim Il-song taught as follows:

"The Korean youth movement, which has continued the brilliant tradition of the anti-Japanese revolution, has traveled the proud road of development under the accurate leadership of our party since the liberation.

"The youth of all classes and strata of our country have all firmly rallied about the one youth organization and brilliantly accomplished their assigned mission at each stage of revolutionary development." (*Selections From the Works of Kim Il-song*," Vol 8, p 481)

The 45-year history of the LSWY is a journey engraved with loyalty to the party and the leader, following in the footsteps of the shining revolutionary tradition of the Korean youth movement, a proud course that dynamically demonstrated the glory and might of the vanguard ranks which have rallied solidly about the party.

During the past 45 years our party has faced many difficulties and many trials. However, our LSWY and youth have brilliantly gone from decade to decade rallied firmly about the respected and beloved leader and the party center with a single ideological will. They have been the honor guards, the do-or-die units, the bodyguards of the Workers' Party, who have crossed burning rivers and slogged through swamps traveling the single road of loyalty. On this one road of glory the LSWY members have been able to grow into faithful youth vanguard units, endlessly loyal to our party, and to accomplish brilliantly their glorious mission and duty.

Above all, the LSWY and young people have firmly believed only in the great leader and the comrade leader and have highly esteemed the leader and the comrade leader with endless loyalty and always advanced, rallied firmly about the party and leader.

The unyielding tenet of trusting and following the great leader and the dear comrade leader with a devoted heart has never wavered for even an instant in the historic journey of the past 45 years. It has been the ideological and spiritual wellspring that has made the LSWY highly display its might as the loyal vanguard of the party.

The LSWY also has brilliantly accomplished its vanguard role in staunchly protecting and defending the great leader and the party with their lives politically and ideologically.

The LSWY organizations and young people have staunchly supported the revolutionary thought, the chuche thought, of the great leader and have stoutly defended as their own eyes their ideological will and the united solidarity of the revolutionary ranks based on it.

The LSWY organizations and youth have always been a shield and a fortress in protecting and defending the party and leader with their lives. Let's sacrifice our lives without hesitation for the sake of the party and the leader—this always has been the firm, unwavering belief, the noble view of life toughly rooted in the hearts of the Korean youth in the violent struggle against class enemies. And so in the hard-fought war for fatherland liberation they blocked the muzzles of the enemy guns with their bodies and became human bombs and leaped into the enemy's advance. And in the days of postwar rebuilding and socialist construction they also contended with the continuing schemes of enemies at home and abroad, having a burning awareness that they would sacrifice their youth and even their lives to protect the party and the leader.

As our party's loyal vanguard unit, the LSWY has brilliantly accomplished its spearhead, do-or-die role in the struggle to implement the party's lines and policies.

In the post-liberation democratic construction period and the postwar reconstruction period and throughout the entire course of the socialist revolution and socialist construction the LSWY organizations and youth vigorously displayed the glory of staunch protectors and thorough implementors of party policy. Always possessing the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality towards party policy, they would unhesitatingly leap even into water or fire if it was the great leader's teaching and the party's decision or instruction and carried it out to the end. And in particular, taking on the most difficult and arduous urgent tasks of socialist construction, they vigorously made breakthroughs of assault as they exalted their youth with heroic feats. Today the great feats of the LSWY members and youth permeate every monumental creation of the WPK era that has risen in every part of our fatherland.

Indeed, during the past 45 years the LSWY has fought its way through the storms of revolution and construction and traversed a proud path as the vanguard unit of loyalty of our party.

The reason the LSWY has been able to carry out its sublime mission and duty as the vanguard unit of our party during the past 45 years was that it had the wise leadership of the great leader and the dear comrade leader throughout.

From the first day he created the LSWY, the great leader said that only if the youth league becomes a powerful militant organization and youth are brought up as steadfast persons is it possible to vigorously advance our revolution and construction, and he brilliantly explained the future path that the LSWY must take in each period and each stage of revolutionary development.

The respected and beloved leader ruled that loyalty to the party should be the basis of all activities of the LSWY organizations and youths and firmly established the party's unitary ideological system in the ranks of youth. He underscored that the LSWY was the party's reserve unit, the shock brigade of party-policy implementation, and devoted endless careful guidance and extreme solicitude toward the strengthening and development of the LSWY and the development of youth work.

The party's leadership of the LSWY is being strengthened at an even higher stage by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is the great inheritor of the chuche cause.

Our party's sublime will is to glorify the Korean communist youth movement pioneered and developed by the great leader as a model for the youth movement of our age, completing the chuche revolutionary cause with young people as the vanguard.

The dear comrade leader, possessing such a design and will, has explained that inheriting and completing generation after generation the revolutionary cause of the great leader is the basic mission of the Korean communist youth movement. He clearly and completely showed the methods and directions of youth work so as to meet the requirements of the higher stage of our revolution, and is personally leading so as to fulfill our role as the vanguard units of the party.

All those things done by the dear comrade leader—his reiteration of the militant program for thoroughly achieving the transformation of the youth ranks with chuche ideology; the revolutionary slogan "Let Us Become the Trustworthy Youth Vanguards of the WPK!"; his guidelines on organizing LSWY work educationally and characteristically and powerfully promoting it; and the well regulated party guidance system for LSWY work—are the motive power that has brought a new revolutionary transformation in LSWY work.

Indeed, we cannot think of the great heyday of our youth movement and the genuine might and pride of the youth ranks apart from the leadership of the dear comrade leader.

Here—in supporting only the leadership of the party with loyalty—is the firm guarantee for new triumphs of the strengthening and development of the LSWY and the youth movement in the future, too.

We must continuously strengthen and develop the LSWY as our party's vanguard unit, which is endlessly loyal to the great leader and the dear leader comrade.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"Youth must possess the firm realization that they will share the fate of life and death with our party and staunchly protect and defend the party and become the party's honor guards, the do-or-die units at all times and in all places."

To strengthen and develop the LSWY as trustworthy youth vanguard units of the party is the supreme requirement in the building of the youth league. Only by strengthening and developing the LSWY as youth vanguard units of loyalty who follow our party forever is it possible to complete to the end the glorious chuche cause, following the party.

Today the most important thing in developing and strengthening the LSWY into the youth vanguard unit of loyalty is to raise all youth as genuine youth vanguards, endlessly loyal to the great leader and the comrade leader.

All LSWY members and young people must continuously thrust high the slogans of loyalty—"Let Us Learn From the Great Leader!" and "Let Us Learn From the Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il!"—and by vigorously carrying out the movement to learn from the glorious youth of the great leader and the movement to learn from the comrade leader, they must thoroughly learn down to the depths of their hearts the greatness of the respected and beloved leader and the dear comrade leader and firmly set up the revolutionary view of the leader and, based on that, see to it that they deeply possess endless loyalty toward the party and the leader and revolutionary faith and will. And they must entrust their whole destiny completely to the great leader and the dear comrade leader and become genuine loyal subjects who believe in and follow the leader and the comrade leader.

Highly respecting the great leader in the dawning of the revolution as the sun of the nation, and as the center of solidarity, and taking as a model the loyalty of the unheralded heroes, the party members of Cell No. 2 of the Fifth Bureau of KCNA, and the youth and functionaries of the Korean Culture Creativity Group, our youth must have even more firm singleminded loyalty to the dear comrade leader and travel staunchly the one road of loyalty and become the eternal companions of our party.

Organizations of the LSWY must more aggressively carry out among young people chuche thought indoctrination, loyalty indoctrination, revolutionary tradition indoctrination, class indoctrination, socialist patriotism indoctrination, communist morals indoctrination, and other ideological indoctrination work. They must train young people as genuine youth vanguards who are imbued with the revolutionary view of the leader and a revolutionary viewpoint and attain the communist traits and see to it that not even one member in the youth ranks falls behind.

In strengthening and developing the LSWY into the youth vanguard unit endlessly loyal to the party it is important to firmly manage LSWY organizations of each echelon and increase their militancy.

LSWY organizations and functionaries must see to it that the whole league always moves and advances as one, by thoroughly setting up an airtight organizational discipline and revolutionary work system. And they must train youth core elements and enhance their role and strengthen work with people and work with the youth masses and make all LSWY organizations into sharp, outstanding, and vibrant youth organizations.

Members of the LSWY must have high organizational concepts, participate sincerely and with self-awareness in LSWY life, and go on strengthening the revolutionary tempering and moral cultivation in the blast furnace of organizational life.

Functionaries of the LSWY must enhance the functions and roles of LSWY organizations of all levels and in particular they must make all primary level bodies achieve the honor of model youth vanguard primary level groups. They must, by every possible method, raise the might and militancy of youth leagues as loyal vanguard units of the party by holding high the slogan "Let the Whole League Help the Primary Level Groups!" and go down to the primary level groups and give them substantive assistance.

To brilliantly achieve the party's design by revolutionary practical activities in the van is an important requirement for fulfilling the mission and duty of the youth vanguard units.

Giving full rein to the strength and passion of highly spirited youth, young people must always make breakthroughs of attack in the forefront of difficult and arduous work of socialist construction and extensively carry out various kinds of mass innovation movements and splendidly accomplish their assigned economic tasks.

Young people must hold high the revolutionary slogan "If the party decides it, we will carry it out" and highly display the might and glory of vanguard units in the worthwhile struggle to achieve to the end the design and intent of the party. In particular, youth must rush forward to the construction sites where we are raising massive creations of a plan for all ages that will give luster to the might of the fatherland. They must continue to stand in the van of the struggle to overfulfill the revolutionary tasks assigned to them, further heighten the flames of the movement to capture the "Youth Torch Award for Completion of the Third 7-Year Plan" and the movement to capture the title of "Spearhead of the Light Industry Revolution," and further raise the people's standard of living.

Upholding with loyalty the leadership of the great leader and the dear comrade leader, let us all display even more brilliantly the glory of vanguard units of loyalty of our party in the worthwhile forward march movement of the 90's, with singleminded loyalty to the party and the leader.

## Thermal Power Plant Construction 'Stepped Up'

*SK1303153891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The construction of the December thermal power plant is being stepped up in the western part of Korea. This power station will supply electric power to the Chollima Steel Complex, a giant iron and steel production base in this region.

Builders have carried out 72.6 percent of earth work, 71.2 percent of concrete tamping, 70.2 percent of prefab assembling, 30.6 percent of equipment assembling and 47.5 percent of assembling of steel structures in a short span of time—project has progressed 50 percent in terms of assembling value.

Ten objects including the generator room, the boiler room, the coal yard, the coal dumping place, the chemical purification place and the main operation room have been built in the main.

The 120-metre high chimney project and railway roadbed project from the coal mine to the power station are near completion.

Four 75 ton boilers have been assembled and the assembling of major equipment is being pushed ahead, also progressing fast is the expansion project of the Kangso district coal mining complex which will supply coal to this power station.

## Reservoirs Built in South Hamgyong Province

*SK1503151991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Eight reservoirs have been built in South Hamgyong Province on the east coast of Korea.

Among them are the August 13 Chongpyong youth reservoir, the Changpung reservoir in Hongwon County, the Yongbong reservoir in Kowon County, the Yonpo reservoir in Riwon County and the Kaljon reservoir in Kumya County.

The reservoirs will supply more sufficient water to thousands of hectares of arable land.

Irrigation of agriculture has reached a high level in Korea.

There are 1,700 reservoirs and 25,800 water pumping stations serving agriculture. And the irrigation channels extend more than 40,000 kilometres.

Channels extending 2,000 ri (800 kilometres) took shape recently to link the rivers Taedong, Yesong, Amnok and Taeryong in one irrigation network and fully supply water to the granary in the western part of the country, with the result that the irrigation system has been brought to perfection.

## Assistance for Building Tongil Street Urged

*SK1803132691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0020 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[NODONG SINMUN 18 March editorial entitled: "Let Us Help the Construction of Tongil Street Even More Vigorously"]

[Text] A struggle for creating the new speed of the nineties is being fiercely fought on the construction sites of 50,000 housing units in the capital city, including Tongil Street.

Thanks to the heroic struggle by those construction workers engaged in building our capital city in speeding up the completion of housing ahead of schedule, new standards and new records are being created throughout the country and the appearance of construction sites is changing every minute and every hour.

With the building of housing entering an earnest stage, the demand for facilities, materials, and labor grows accordingly. The extensive construction of the capital, including the 50,000 housing units, calls for vigorous support from the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The various sectors of the national economy should ensure the supply of the facilities and materials necessary for construction on a precedence basis and in a timely manner. The entire party, the whole nation, and all the people should vigorously provide assistance to the construction of major projects.

An important requirement for speeding up the construction of housing in the capital is for the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people to vigorously assist the construction of Tongil Street.

Construction workers and those soldiers of the Korean People's Army involved in building the 50,000 housing units in the capital are upholding the long-term plan of our party, which is determined to completely solve our people's housing problem within a few years. They have come far since the beginning of this year by continually increasing construction speed amid the flames of struggle to create the new speed of the nineties, cherishing the pride of having erected 30,000 units of modern housing during the past year.

The accomplishment they have attained in less than one year in the construction of housing in the capital, including Tongil Street, is great and worth bragging about. Yet those involved in construction in the capital are faced with extensive tasks.

The period of time that our construction workers had promised the party has almost run out. However, they still have much to do before completing the housing, only the skeletons of which have been finished. They still have to pave roads, remove dirt, build facilities related to the housing's completion, and construct public buildings.

In addition, the building of the Exhibition Hall of the Three Revolutions, of Nungna suspension bridge, and of the tram car track should also be accelerated and completed at the earliest possible date.

For the construction to be completed on time—and there is still a long way to go—the sectors and units concerned should raise even higher the flames of solidarity renovation, and the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people should be mobilized as one to positively aid construction materially, technically, and with labor.

What is more, construction projects require active aid from the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people since these projects are nearing completion or are simultaneously under way in many places.

As is customary with other kinds of construction, the last stage of the housing's construction, including the interior and exterior plastering as well as the building of the structure, is more complicated and takes more time than the building of the skeleton, not to mention the fact that it requires more materials, facilities, and a variety of finishing products.

What the extensive construction in the capital city—including the construction of the 50,000 housing units—needs more than anything else at the moment is materials, facilities, and labor.

Only when the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people are more vigorously engaged in aiding construction in the capital, regarding it as their common work, can construction workers brilliantly fulfill the targets in construction which they had promised to the party, thereby brilliantly implementing our party's long-term plan for construction in the capital city.

This precisely demonstrates the strength of our people's invincible unity and solidarity with which they have faithfully upheld our party's leadership under the confident slogan "What the party decides, we will do." In addition, this glorifies our country's socialism.

Dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has recently grasped the status of 50,000 housing units in the capital, including Tongil Street construction, and expressed satisfaction with this. He put forward the task that the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people should turn out to more properly support the construction of the capital in order to quickly complete all construction as soon as possible.

Cherishing deep in their hearts the party's intention that the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people should turn out to vigorously support all construction in the capital, all party members and working people throughout the country should energetically rise up and positively support the construction of the capital physically, spiritually, and with labor.

To this end, what is most important is that all functionaries and working people should deeply understand our party's plan and intention for constructing housing in the capital. They should also ideologically turn out to struggle to carry out our party's plan and intention.

The construction of 50,000 housing units in the capital, including Tongil Street, is a large-scale construction operation which our party has accelerated in order to smoothly provide the people with more cultural and advanced living conditions.

Therefore, the construction of housing in the capital as well as the construction of Tongil Street is the common work of the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people.

Along with builders, all party members and working people should take a stand worthy of those responsible for the Tongil Street construction. Thus, it is natural that they should preferentially produce pertinent equipment and materials and devote valuable effort to construction.

All party members and working people in all areas of the national economy should unanimously rise up and uphold the party's long-term plan for construction in the capital. By so doing, they should continue to uplift the noble tradition—the tradition of carrying out the party's line and policy without fail as we have done in the past—in the construction of Tongil Street.

The work to support the construction of housing in the capital, including Tongil Street, is not a simple working-level matter. Rather, this is important political work which is aimed not only at brilliantly realizing the lofty intention of construction in the capital by our party which has served the people but also at vigorously displaying the might of the country.

Party organizations at every level as well as party functionaries should more vigorously carry out organizational and political work in order to arouse party members and working people to support the construction of Tongil Street.

The brilliant realization of the party's plan to construct the capital largely depends upon how concerned areas, plants, and enterprises in provinces, cities, and counties organize the work for construction of the capital.

The party organizations concerned—including the party committees of provinces, cities, and counties—should set a high target to positively support Tongil Street construction in keeping with the specific condition of their villages and districts. In addition, they should vigorously carry out political work—work with the people—to arouse party members and working people to implement the target.

Party organizations at every level should urgently and widely explain and inculcate our party's ideology and plan to party members and working people. By so doing, they should make the entire country seethe with a socialist atmosphere to vigorously support the construction of the capital.

On the basis of this, party organizations should strengthen the work of guiding and controlling all areas and units in order to meticulously carry out and support the work materially, technologically, and with labor.

Producing equipment, facilities, and final building materials in particular is an important issue which arises in supporting the construction of housing in the capital.

The domains and units, which are assigned the work of producing cement, iron materials, and other facilities and equipment needed for constructing housing in the capital, should operate production facilities at full capacity to most effeciently produce materials and facilities.

In particular, the building materials industry domains and local villages should operate the building bases at full capacity, which have been established with their own strength. By so doing, they should produce more building materials, including tiles, to send to Tongil Street sites.

The quality of housing construction is significantly related to facilities and materials.

Domains and units concerned should understand the party's lofty intention to provide our people with better living conditions by constructing 50,000 housing units in the capital. Accordingly, even if they assemble just one facility and produce just one piece of building material, they should meticulously produce good building materials with all sincerity.

It is important to properly carry out supply work with labor. Domains and local villages concerned should substantially grasp the status of tasks assigned to their domains, their units, and their province. As a result, they should take due measures for supplying more labor and technicians, if they are in short supply.

The smooth supply of materials is one of the important conditions to accelerate housing construction to the utmost, by raising the enthusiasm of the builders engaged in construction of the capital.

Domains concerned and provinces cherish deep in their hearts that the rear-area supply work is precisely political work. They should carry out the work to more smoothly provide builders with all conditions needed for their work and lives, in keeping with specific conditions.

In particular, each province should carry out organizational work to further effect success in the rear-area support work. Without carrying out organizational work, no success can be effected in any work.

At a time when Tongil Street construction is entering the full-dress stage, and when the heavy task of further strengthening supply work for Tongil Street construction in pertinent domains arises, the reality demands that leading functionaries should more briskly act and work in a militant manner worthy of commanding staff of the revolution.

The party functionaries, administrative and economic functionaries, and functionaries of the working people's organizations of all domains in the national economy should correctly set up a target according to stages, in order to supply Tongil Street construction. In addition, they should responsibly carry out an organizational and managing work to realize the target.

Functionaries should concretely carry out organizational and managing work. In addition, they should set an example in the supply work for Tongil Street.

Judging from its scale and construction period, the construction of 50,000 housing units in the capital city, including Tongil Street, is an unprecedented large-scale construction in the history of our country's construction.

All party members and the working people throughout the country should cherish deep in their hearts the party's demand that the entire party, the whole nation, and all the people should vigorously support Tongil Street. In addition, they should complete without fail Tongil Street construction within a predetermined period, by further strengthening the supply work materially, technologically, and with labor.

## Comradely Unity in Entire Society Urged

*SK1803123791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[NODONG SINMUN 16 March editorial: "Let Us Make the Entire Society Overflow With the Ethos of Comradely Unity"]

[Text] The single-hearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses has been achieved in our country. The ethos of comradely unity to struggle together by helping and pulling each other along is highly demonstrated in our country.

This is a powerful source of strength to make it possible to vitalize our own style of socialism and to successfully carry out any task laid before us.

In his New Year address this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song emphasized that the ethos of comradely unity, which is highly demonstrated among our people, should be actively inspired and developed, and that the entire society should overflow with such an ethos.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should more firmly establish the system of the chuche idea among the party members and workers, and consolidate the political and ideological cohesion of the entire society with the party as its center. Thus, we should make the entire society overflow with the ethos of comradely unity to struggle together by helping and pulling each other along based on the principle, "One for all, all for one!"

The ethos of comradely unity is a trait inherent in our people who are living in the society of our own style of socialism where the chuche idea is embodied.

In our society, which has excellently embodied the collectivist demand of the people, all the people are firmly united with the party and the leader as one based on the revolutionary principle and comradeship.

Today in our country, the noble and fine custom of dedicating one's youth, flesh, and blood for one's comrade, just as hero Kim Kwang-chol did, is more fully developed.

It is a glorious struggle for vigorously demonstrating the superiority and indomitable vitality of our own style socialism to make the entire society overflow with the ethos of comradely unity to struggle together by helping and pulling each other along.

When the ethos of comradely unity is highly demonstrated, all the people in our society can fully enjoy the independent and creative life corresponding to the essential demand of men, and our own style socialism will be further consolidated and developed.

Making the entire society overflow with the ethos of comradely unity is an important guarantee for creating new miracles and exploits in the socialist construction. The heavy revolutionary tasks facing us today can be successfully accomplished when the ethos of comradely unity is highly demonstrated.

We should register new innovations in developing the mining industry, electricity industry, railway transportation, and metallurgical industry, and at the same time, should accelerate the major construction projects including construction of the Sariwon Potash Fertilizer Complex. We should also rapidly develop agriculture and light industry.

The tasks laid before us are enormous. However, we can easily accomplish them if we highly demonstrate the ethos of comradely unity being firmly rallied behind the party and the leader.

When we make all places in the nation overflow with the ethos of the comradely unity of helping and pulling each other along, voices sounding the hurrah of victory will constantly and highly resound from every outpost in the socialist construction.

What is important for all party members and workers in making the entire society overflow with the ethos of comradely unity is, above all, to more firmly cherish the revolutionary faith to share their intentions and destiny with the leader of the revolution.

The revolutionary faith to highly uphold the ideas and intentions of the party and the leader is an ideological and mental source which enables all members of the society to firmly unite themselves around the party and the leader, as a social and political organism.

The leader [suryong] is the center of the life of a social and political group. When all members of society are united with the leader organizationally and ideologically, with firm faith and comradeship, the fine custom of comradely unity will be fully developed in the entire society.

All party members and workers should keenly realize that thinking and acting only in accordance with the ideas and intentions of the party and the leader are the might of comradely unity, and are the basic guarantee for consolidating and developing our socialism. Thus, they should firmly establish the revolutionary outlook on the leader, and unite themselves with the party and the leader based on the chuche idea, and by cherishing the revolutionary faith and comradeship.

It is important for party members and workers to follow and learn from the lofty example of revolutionary comradeship and unity displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

The revolutionary comradeship, which filled the anti-Japanese revolutionary ranks, was the most tenacious revolutionary spirit in defending and protecting the headquarters of the Korean revolution at the risk of one's life. It was with a lofty love that they shared their intentions and destinies on the path of upholding the great general.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters could highly demonstrate the genuine revolutionary comradeship because they keenly realized, in the course of waging a decisive battle against the enemy in the firm unity with the leader, that the leader is indeed the center of the life of our people.

All party members and workers should actively follow and learn from the lofty example of revolutionary comradeship displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, and should firmly prepare themselves as a genuine chuche-type revolutionary with a revolutionary outlook on the leader.

Party members and workers should endlessly value and love the revolutionary comrades based on loyalty to the leader of the revolution, just as the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters did, and should strengthen the unity of the revolutionary ranks.

In order to fill the entire society with the ethos of comradely unity, all domains and units should more highly display the fine custom of comradely cooperation based on loyalty to the party and to the leader.

Our party members and workers are revolutionary fighters who struggle to accomplish the ideas and intentions of the party and the leader. They are the revolutionary comrades who share their intentions.

Today it is an ideological and mental trait of our party members and workers that they are firmly resolved with one aspiration to render their ardent loyalty to the party and to the leader, although their revolutionary outposts and subworks are different from one another.

All party members and workers should truly trust and love comrades based on loyalty to the party and the leader, and should cherish ardent comradeship of sharing joy and sorrow. In particular, they should strengthen the principled unity of group through the practice of work and revolution.

The comradely love and revolutionary principle should be embodied in the relationship between the upper and lower classes. In our country, the relationship between functionaries and workers is that between comrades who are carrying out the revolutionary mission together.

The people in the lower class should respect and help the people in the higher class as precious comrades who carry out a more important revolutionary mission, and the people in the higher class should warmly take care of and lead the people in the lower class with the sense of greater responsibility.

The guiding functionaries should thoroughly implement the slogan, "We serve the people!" put forward by dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and should become functionaries respected and beloved by the people.

Today the active struggle is being waged to implement the party's magnificent economic construction plan. This reality demands that the support and cooperation among all domains and units in the national economy be strengthened more than ever before. Since domains and units in the national economy are closely related with one another, it is a lofty work for upholding the party's ideas and intentions to strengthen mutual support and cooperation.

All functionaries and workers, keeping in mind that giving genuine cooperation to the work of other domains and other units is the true road for becoming an ardent defender and executor of the party's policy as well as an excellent supporter of the party, should more highly display the spirit and fine custom of cooperative solidarity.

Thorough embodiment of the demand of the Taean work system and Chongsanri work method is an important demand in making the entire society overflow with the ethos of comradely unity. The Taean work system and Chongsanri work method are a collectivist work system and work method of all for one and one for all.

All domains and all units of national economy should more highly display the ethos of higher echelon to go down to the lower echelon for help in accordance with the demand of the Taean work system and Chongsanri method.

In particular, as stressed by the great leader in his New Year address, functionaries of the party, functionaries of the administration and economic fields, technicians and producers should closely cooperate with each other, and smoothly carry out in firm unity the economic tasks assigned them.

On the land of Komdok where great innovations are registered under the party's leadership, the spirit and fine custom of comradely cooperation are fully blooming today.

By actively popularizing such experience, we should highly display the ethos of cooperating and pulling each other along with one heart and one will. We should also demonstrate the resolution to thoroughly accomplish the intentions of the great leader and dear comrade leader.

In making the entire society overflow with the ethos of comradely unity, enhancing the role of party organizations is important. Party organizations should carry out the work with men, and strengthen organizational and political work. Thus, they should further strengthen the revolutionary unity of the ranks based on the revolutionary comradeship.

They should also actively popularize the fine communist custom of struggling by dedicating everything to revolutionary comrades. At the same time, party organizations should pay keen attention so that a work team helps another work team, a workshop helps another workshop, and a plant helps another plant, and that flames of collective innovations in helping and pulling each other along are ablaze in all units.

All functionaries and workers should more highly display the revolutionary comradeship based on loyalty to the party and the leader so that the entire society is filled with the ethos of comradely unity.

## South Korea

### Kim Il-song Said Suffering 'Heartbeat Slowdown'

*SK1903124091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1223 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday that North Korean President Kim Il- song has developed a minor heartbeat problem that is commonly found among the aged people.

"We could confirm through our embassy in Switzerland that a Swiss medical team had attempted to go to Pyongyang to cure Kim of his heartbeat problem. The Swiss physicians were told that Kim was suffering a heartbeat slowdown," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

The Swiss Government disallowed three cardiologists of Geneva State Hospital to visit Pyongyang on March 8 because they had not reported it in advance, the official said.

"North Korean representatives in Geneva revealed Kim is suffering from a heartbeat slowdown but not a heart disease," he said. "Cardiologists here say a simple treatment using a pacemaker can remove the symptom with ease."

### Air Route Via North, South Korea Put on Hold

*SK1903063491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—Efforts to open an air route between Tokyo and Beijing via South and North Korea are dying of indifference, Transportation Ministry and aviation industry sources said Tuesday.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been trying to open the route since July 1990, when ICAO President Assad Kotaite first suggested the idea of a new Tokyo-Beijing route overflying both halves of the peninsula while on a trip to Japan, China and South and North Korea.

The proposed route, some 300 kilometers shorter than the existing route, initially earned a favorable response from the countries involved, but interest has faded and ICAO has given up its efforts for the time being, the sources said.

Flying distance on the new route is 1,385 kilometers and flying time 3 hours and 23 minutes, compared with 1,647 kilometers and 4 hours and 1 minute for the current route.

Kotaite's proposal attracted keen interest in the aviation world due to the initial welcome by the four nations and the expectation that opening a route over the two Koreas might lead to flights between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Interest in the new route fizzled when North Korea stayed away from an ICAO general meeting in Canada last October.

As a result, the other countries lost interest and ICAO has put the project on hold, judging that it should be possible after political relations between South and North Korea improve.

ICAO has informed the Korean Transportation Ministry it will send an official to Seoul to discuss the matter.

The visit in June by Malcolm Hood, chief of ICAO's Bangkok-based office for Asia and the Pacific, is unlikely to result in tangible discussions as it was designed to show opening the Tokyo-Beijing route is still an ICAO concern, the sources said.

### ROK To Consult With UN Under Secretaries

*SK1903051991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has invited three U.N. undersecretaries-general to visit Seoul in late March to make known its position on joining the United Nations this year, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday.

Yasushi Akashi, undersecretary-general for disarmament affairs, Ronald Spiers, undersecretary-general for political and general assembly affairs, and Antoine Blanca, director-general for development and international economic cooperation, will arrive at the end of the month for talks with Korean officials and scholars on South Korea's admission to the world body, the Ministry said.

Seoul's position is that it can no longer delay in seeking membership of the United Nations even if North Korea refuses to join simultaneously, and it will apply for full U.N. membership this year.

Akashi is due in Seoul March 28 and the other two March 31.

Akashi will meet with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, Rep. Pak Chong-su, chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, and attend a discussion among officials and scholars on disarmament affairs, it said.

Spiers, who is also scheduled to meet with Yi, will speak at a seminar sponsored by the U.N. Association of Korea April 2 on the new international order and the role of United Nations.

Blanca will attend the 47th General Conference of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP] here April 1-10.

The government also plans to use the ESCAP conference to explain its position concerning U.N. entry.

## Principles for North-South Talks Discussed

*SK1903090391 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 18 Mar 91 P 2*

[Editorial: "The Principles To Be Adhered to in North-South Talks"]

[Text] The talks between North and South Korea that have been suspended will surely be resumed sooner or later, because North Korea will not be able to continue to close the door of North-South dialogue indefinitely, in light of its present internal and external circumstances. On the part of South Korea, as well, it cannot disregard the political and social interests that it will gain through the resumption of North-South talks. Judging from such circumstances we see a strong possibility of North-South talks being resumed following the ongoing Team Spirit military exercise.

However, even though the suspended North-South talks are to resume, it is difficult for us to predict progress in the talks. However, what we can foresee at present is that North Korea will have to open the door of North-South dialogue in order to further accelerate its ongoing negotiations for the normalization of diplomatic relations with Japan, and to improve its relations with the United States. We can say that this fact alone is a positive and favorable development, because it can be regarded as clear evidence that North Korea has come to realize not only today's international relations, but also the importance of dialogue between North and South Korea.

North Korea should show flexibility in dealing with the question of allowing international inspection of its nuclear facilities, a key issue for the normalization of its diplomatic relations with Japan, and for the improvement of its relations with the United States. By doing so North Korea can not only expect a flexible reaction from the United States, but also a positive response to North Korean-Japanese talks from Japan.

However, the problem is North Korea's attitude toward South Korea in the future. Unless there is a change in its attitude and policy toward the South, North Korea will undergo great disappointment again in its relations with Japan and the United States. Therefore, North Korea is urged to renounce its united front strategies against South Korea and to actively respond to the solution to the question of free travel and exchange between the North and the South.

Along with this, we would like to make some recommendations to our government in connection with its future efforts to resume North-South dialogue.

Firstly, ministries in the government, and even individuals, should refrain from voicing their irresponsible personal assertions or opinions with regard to the question of relations between North and South Korea. Such a phenomenon has already appeared. A flagrant case which took place recently has thrown the government's policy of dialogue with the North into confusion. No specific "standard bearer" is needed in dealing with the question of relations between North and South Korea. There should be clear limits in clarifying who should be responsible and who should play the role in dealing with the question of relations between the North and the South.

Secondly, what is important is to establish clear principles. The so-called "elder brother" logic, that is to say, the logic that the South is an elder brother and the North is a young brother, should be avoided because such logic may result in spoiling North-South dialogue itself. When we clearly draw the line between what we can make concessions on and what we cannot, the North can decide its attitude according to this. When we assume a flexible attitude in the beginning and, later, assume a hesitating attitude in the end, that is to say, when we fail to assume a consistent attitude from beginning to end, this will undoubtedly cause distrust from the North. Of course, we know our government is well aware of this. Our people's general opinion also agrees with this.

Thirdly, we should not recklessly advance proposals for economic cooperation with the North. In other words, we should be very prudent in advancing a proposal for economic cooperation with the North. Of course, we know North Korea is now in an economically difficult situation. However, North Korea has defended their own style socialism, and it has made all possible efforts to solve its economic difficulties within its capabilities.

Perhaps, North Koreans believe that they can solve their difficult economic situation with their own strength.

This notwithstanding, we have often announced various plans for North Korea—which rather smack of a "grant-type economic aid"—without considering their economic value. This may not only hurt North Korea's pride, but is also an idea which disregards our economic situation.

Fourthly, North-South talks should not be linked with our domestic politics. This is a very dangerous idea. It is true that a political reformation to reorganize the present political structure has been covertly discussed, and, moreover, there have been strong suspicions among people that such discussions have smacked of a strong political plot. Therefore, we are afraid that the question of North and South Korea should become the focus of such social suspicions. The government should deal with North-South dialogue with the firm determination that it represents our suprapartisan and pannational concern.

As the possibility of the resumption of North-South talks becomes apparent, our government's basic stand toward North-South dialogue has been made public from time to time. At the same time, a favorable situation which may positively develop the relations between North and South Korea has been created. However, how to lead the situation to contribute to the progress in North-South dialogue is precisely our government's responsibility and rests with its ability to do so. We urge the government to cope with the upcoming North-South dialogue with firm faith, but not in a hurried manner.

## Seoul Approves Scholars' Contact With DPRK

*SK1903023691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—Fifteen South Koreans won government approval Monday to contact North Koreans at an international academic conference in Dourdan, France, March 22-26.

Korea Research Foundation (KRF) President Chong Yun-chun and the 14 others will take part in the 15th conference of the Association for Korean Studies in Europe, which will also be attended by Kwak Sun-uk, an international division chief at the North Korean Academy of Social Sciences, and Choe Yong-sik, head of the history department at Kim Il-song University.

The association has held annual, non-political academic conferences for scholars specializing [in] Korean studies since its establishment in Nantes, France, in 1976.

South Koreans have taken part since the outset, but North Koreans attended for the first time in London in 1989, a KRF official said.

## Patriot Missiles Ruled Out for Scud-B Defense

*SK1903095391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0810 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—Scud-busting Patriot anti-missile missiles, made famous in the Gulf war, are unsuitable for the defense of South Korea and the country has ruled out buying any of them, a Korean newspaper said Tuesday.

The Patriot is not a practical answer to North Korea's Scud-B missiles for both strategic and economic reasons, and because of their performance, the CHUNGANG ILBO quoted an anonymous government official as saying.

The official admitted that the government had given some thought to purchasing the Patriot system to defend against North Korea's mass-produced surface-to-surface Scuds, the vernacular paper said.

Korea would need at least 18 batteries, including three for Seoul, and six to seven battalions for the missile-killer missiles to provide complete defense against Scud-B attacks, the paper said.

One battery costs 200 million to 300 million U.S. dollars, and Korea could use the money in more economic and effective ways to improve its defense capabilities, CHUNGANG said.

With the defense budget being trimmed, Seoul finds it virtually impossible to purchase the missiles, it said.

U.S. press reports that the missiles hit 80 percent to 90 percent of their targets in the Gulf war were wrong, and the truth is that the success rate was a 50 percent to 60 percent and there was major damage from debris even when they did not miss the mark, the paper said.

North Korea was more likely to use short-range missiles than Scuds in any surprise attack on the South because their front lines are so close, the local daily said.

According to published reports based on government data, North Korea is capable of producing more than 50 Scud-B missiles a year and has at least 12 launchers stationed near the truce line. They are reportedly capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads.

## * DPRK's Kim Kwang-chin's Biography Detailed

*912C0141A Seoul PUKHAN in Korean No 2, Feb 91 pp 152-159*

[Article by Han Hon-chun, National Unification Board consultant: "General Kim Kwang-chin, the Man Who Will Represent North Korea on Inter-Korean Disarmament Issues"]

[Text] Continuing from the three rounds of inter-Korean high-level talks last year, the disarmament issues between North and South, including the question of signing a "nonaggression declaration," are expected to loom large in the succeeding rounds this year.

At this moment, therefore, every move of General Kim Kwang-chin, minister of the people's Armed Forces, who participated in the inter-Korean high-level talks as a North Korean delegate, draws more attention than ever before. The following is a profile of General Kim Kwang-chin, who has the nickname of "Dr. of Artillery" as North Korea's number-one authority on artillery warfare.

Two different persons are listed in North Korea's who's who under the name Kim Kwang-chin.

One is the soldier-turned present minister of the people's Armed Forces. The other is the man who was born in 1932 and now heads the economic department of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea], one of the party's specialized departments. When the name Kim Kwang-chin appears in the press without an identification of his position, confusion arises sometimes as to which Kim Kwang-chin it refers to, the civilian, or the soldier.

However, the face of the four-star general, Kim Kwang-chin, has become quite familiar to us as a result of the inter-Korean high-level talks which were held last year on three occasions, alternating between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Now the author will present a profile of the soldier Kim Kwang-chin, beginning with his personal background, and going on to examine his major career record and activities, the background against which he gained his power, and a short comment on his personality, in that order.

**Reasonable, Flexible Soldier**

Kim Kwang-chin was born in North Jian Dao, Manchuria, in 1918. He followed his father to the Soviet Far East, where he grew up. After completing a middle school course in (Cosmoskaya), he is said to have graduated from the Far Eastern Minority College.

Later he joined the Soviet Army and graduated from a Soviet Army artillery school. He participated in World War II.

No detailed data are available on his family background. However, according to reports, he married a Russian woman, divorced her in about 1959, and sent her back to the Soviet Union. He married his subordinate female office worker in or about 1960.

When he was observed at a close range during the Seoul session of the inter-Korean high-level talks, he looked a bit taller than average, about 174 centimeters in height.

Customarily, a North Korean soldier wears his military cap in such a manner that his brows and most of his forehead are exposed while the back of his head is covered deep. But unlike this peculiar way of wearing the camp, the visor of Kim's cap was pull down low so that his brows were barely seen.

His forehead looked rather smooth, not many wrinkles for a man in his early 70's. His smallish sharp eyes, his thin lips, and his drooping large ears were characteristic of his look.

In addition, his head gave different impressions depending on whether he wore his military cap or not. With his cap on, he looked like a real soldier.

Without the cap, his face looked rather round. The crown of his head is completely bald with no hair, and looked as if it were covered by a white, round gourd dipper. Customarily, North Korean males do not part their hair, but Kim's hair is parted on the left side near the left ear.

Kim's smile is quite impressive. It is characteristic of his smiles that when he smiles, he closes his mouth tight and smiles with his eyes first. As a soldier, he may be roughly described as a man who looks more soft and cheerful than harsh.

**'Dr. of Artillery,' Number-One Authority on Artillery**

An examination of Kim Kwang-chin's major military career record up to now shows that he started as an instructor at the artillery school under the headquarters of the security force cadre training battalion, the parent body of the North Korean Army, in 1947, and became involved fully in the founding and development of the Korean People's Army (KPA). After the founding of the KPA (on 8 February 1948), he became deputy commander of an artillery regiment, and served as chief of staff of the General Bureau of Logistics, Ministry of National Defense, until he participated in the Korean war as deputy commander of an artillery division.

In or about 1953, after the armistice treaty was signed, Kim became deputy commander of an artillery corps. Subsequently, from 1956 through 1958, he studied at the Soviet Military Academy. After returning home upon completion of his study in the academy, he was promoted to the chief of staff of the artillery command. He became deputy commander of the artillery in 1963, was promoted in 1970 to one-star general, and became commander of the artillery command, the number-one authority on artillery, 23 years or so after his embarkation on his military career.

The North Korean Armed Forces are controlled by a composite command system like the ROK Armed Forces, but they are somewhat different in composition. To be more specific, there is no Army chief of staff under General Choe-kwang, chief of the General Staff. Instead, there are the artillery command (commanded by Lieutenant General Choe Sang-uk), the mechanized command (Senior General Ki Chong-ok), the missile command (Lieutenant General Cho Min-song), the Capital

Defense Command (four-star General Yi Ul-sol), and the 8th Special Corps and Eighth Army Corps.

One of the reasons North Korea has the artillery command as an independent branch of service just like the Navy and the Air Force seems to be that in view of the mountainous topography of Korea, an independent artillery command is needed to provide facile artillery combat support to the front line from behind the hills.

Apparently, for this reason, Kim Kwang-chin has long contributed greatly to the improvement of the North Korean Army's artillery operating skills and the modernization of its artillery armament, thereby earning his nickname of "Dr of Artillery."

Kim was appointed as commander of the guided missile command newly activated in 1977. Subsequently, he was appointed as deputy chief of General Staff (in August 1983) and then as commander of the 5th Corps (in April 1984). In February 1985 he became vice minister of the Armed Forces, and he still maintains this post today.

In particular, Kim Kwang-chin was promoted to the rank of four-star general on the occasion of Kim Il-song's 73d birthday celebration on 13 April 1985. It is not clear when he was given the rank of senior general before being promoted to the rank of full general. Assuming that he was a senior general when he was appointed as commander of the 5th Army Corps, it may be presumed that he was promoted to full general in about a year's time.

This obscurity originates in the fact that he had worn his lieutenant general's insignia (two stars) for as many as 14 years, and that a general's insignia is put on or off according to the "title" he has, to all intents and purposes.

Turning now to Kim Kwang-chin's career in the party and government, he was elected to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) on 12 December 1972, and since then he has maintained his position as an SPA deputy.

He is a member of the National Defense Commission under President Kim Il-song. The Defense Commission was strengthened with the creation of the post of first vice chairman (Kim Chong-il) as part of the reorganization carried out in the formation of the ninth cabinet.

However, his official position in the WPK, the center of power in North Korea, remains rather low.

When Kim Chong-il officially became the number-two man in North Korea at the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980, Kim Kwang-chin was named as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (ranking 19th among the 103 members) and was promoted to full member at the 9th Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in July 1984. Currently, he ranks 110th among the 180 member of the Party Central Committee.

Kim Kwang-chin has never been appointed to the Political Bureau or the Secretariat of the party, the two key party organizations. This indicates that he has never been involved in the power strife in North Korea, in which one undergoes an alteration of promotions and demotions, honors and humiliations.

**Senior Among Vice Ministers of People's Armed Forces**

There were two particular occasions in which Kim Kwang-chin's name appeared in NODONG SINMUN, organ of the WPK.

The first occasion was the news conference arranged by the Ministry of People's Armed Forces on 24 April 1982 in connection with the 50th founding anniversary of the KPA. At his news conference, he answered questions by reporters in his capacity as deputy chief of the General Staff (lieutenant general). Praising Kim Il-song and his son, Kim Kwang-chin said that the achievements of the North Korean Armed Forces represent "in their entirety the fruition of the outstanding and tested leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the glorious party center." Answering questions on the issues of national reunification and inter-Korean relations, Kim Kwang-chin stressed that national reunification should be achieved by crushing the plot of the so-called splittists at home and abroad to concoct "two Koreas" and to ignite a new war, and that tensions should be eased and the danger of war removed in order to achieve independent and peaceful reunification. (NODONG SINMUN, 25 April 1982)

The other occasion was the 30th anniversary of the armistice, in observance of which he contributed an article concerning the position and policy of the North Korean Armed Forces.

The article was entitled "The U.S. Imperialists Should Know That Neither Nuclear Weapons nor Arms Buildup Is Almighty."

In this article he criticized the triangular relations between the ROK, the United States, and Japan, and mounted a verbal peace offensive by stressing the appropriateness of signing a nonaggression declaration from the political and military viewpoint.

He scored the attitude of the United States and the ROK in this way: the United States is looking away from the issue of converting "the armistice agreement" into a "peace agreement"; and South Korea "is dodging the question of issuing a nonaggression declaration by the North and the South. All this is clear evidence that the scoundrels have not yet abandoned their policy of confrontation and war, and are indifferent to peace and peaceful reunification."

He then noted that the entire Armed Forces were converted to the chuche ideology in political and ideological terms, and their anti-imperialist class consciousness was very intense. He boasted that such a steely command and control system has been established that when it comes to party orders, the military will gallantly cross a blazing river of fire, or walk through a boggy road to execute them."

He then declared that North Korea was converted literally to an "impregnable fortress" because "the party, the military, and the people are united tightly as one, the whole Army has become a modernized cadre army, all the people are under arms, and the whole country is turned into a fortress." (NODONG SINMUN, 26 July 1985)

To list Kim Kwang-chin's major military-related public appearances, he attended the Pyongyang City mass rally in October 1980 marking the 30th anniversary of the Chinese People's Volunteers' participation in the Korean war, and subsequently attended the meeting in February 1982 marking the 64th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army.

When Kim Il-song and his son, Kim Chong-il, paid a customary visit to military units on 25 April 1989 and on 25 April 1990 in connection with the KPA founding anniversary, Kim Kwang-chin was on hand with O Chin-u, minister of the people's Armed Forces, and Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff, to welcome the two leaders, thereby substantiating that he was the senior among the six vice ministers of the people's Armed Forces.

**Pivotal Role in Military Diplomacy**

During the inter-Korean high-level talks, Kim Kwang-chin was North Korea's military representative.

Incidentally, the following is the portion extracted from the 10-point draft "declaration on nonaggression, reconciliation, and cooperation between North and South," introduced by the North Korean delegation at the third round of inter-Korean high-level talks held in Seoul, dealing with three military aspects.

Point 2. "Under no circumstances will the North and the South ever resort to arms against each other or invade each other by force of arms, and to insure this ban, the two sides will suspend the arms race and achieve military confidence-building and a gradual disarmament."

Point 3. "The North and the South will regard the military demarcation line as stipulated in the Korean Military Armistice agreement dated 27 July 1953 as the demarcation line for nonaggression, and convert the DMZ along the military demarcation line into a peace zone."

Point 4. "The North and the South will establish and operate a direct telephone line between the military authorities of the two sides in order to avoid accidental armed clashes and prevent the escalation thereof."

Kim Kwang-chin occasionally contacted foreign military delegations visiting North Korea. He was on hand to greet the Romanian military delegation when it arrived in Pyongyang on 1 July 1973, and attended the welcoming ceremony for the visiting Egyptian military delegation on 19 May 1976. In addition, he paid a visit to the ships of the Soviet Pacific Fleet when they made a port call at Wonsan in August 1985.

In addition to his military-related activities at home, Kim Kwang-chin began visiting foreign countries with O Chin-u for military diplomacy. In his capacity as commander of the artillery, he accompanied the then chief of the General Staff, O Chin-u, to China on two occasions (in July 1970 and in August 1971), and accompanied O Chin-u, who was promoted to minister of the people's Armed Forces, to Pakistan (in May 1976).

Beginning in 1980, Kim Kwang-chin, in his capacity as the head of the North Korean military delegation, toured Czechoslovakia and East Germany (in March 1985), and visited the Soviet Union twice (in July 1986 and in February 1988), and China once (in October 1984). The purpose of the visits was to strengthen friendship and military ties with these countries.

Kim Kwang-chin and O Chin-u are contemporary military men, the former 73 years old and the latter 74 years old. But as far as rank and seniority are concerned, it may be said that their relationship has so far been the superior-inferior relationship with Kim taking orders from O Chin-u.

**Background of His Power, Future Prospects**

Now we will examine the background against which Kim Kwang-chin has gained his power as vice minister of the people's Armed Forces and concurrently member of the National Defense Commission, member of the Party Central Committee, and SPA deputy while climbing up the rank of four-star general. First, he was not involved in the anti-Kim Il-song conspiracies which touched off the 1966 purge of the pro-Soviet faction and the 1969 purge of Kim Chang-pong (the then vice premier and minister of the people's Armed Forces).

Second, Kim Kwang-chin not only contributed to the development of the artillery tactics and the modernization of the artillery armament of the North Korean Army while serving as commander of the artillery for many years, but also is said to be well versed in military intelligence.

Third, he is a general of the intelligent type endowed with a superb speech-making and writing capability which has been put to use in military diplomacy and inter-Korean dialogue.

Lastly, he is one of the military elders who participated in the founding of the North Korean Army. Particularly, he is said to be among the generals who support the hereditary succession of power from Kim Il-song to his son, Kim Chong-il, and who stood in the van of efforts to facilitate Kim Chong-il's grip on the military. (He received the order of Kim Il-song in July 1972.)

Kim Kwang-chin does not belong to the partisan group directly under Kim Il-song, nor is there any confirmed fact that he is related to Kim Il-song. Reportedly, he is valorous and guileless in character. However, considering the fact that his major military skill is artillery, he is judged as a technocrat with a relatively reasonable and flexible mind, both professionally proficient and socialist-minded.

The fourth round of inter-Korean high-level talks will begin in Pyongyang on the 25th of this month as agreed by both sides, unless this year's Team Spirit exercise becomes an obstacle.

If these talks continue to proceed smoothly, and as a result, exchanges and cooperation between North and South are realized, and the armistice arrangement on the Korean peninsula is converted to an arrangement of peace, and finally gradual arms control steadily progresses, then Kim Kwang-chin's presence within the North Korean delegation will shine all the more brightly.

[Begin box] Kim Kwang-chin's Brief Career Record

1947. Instructor at the artillery school under the national defense cadre training battalion. 02/1948. Deputy commander of an artillery regiment. 06/1950. Chief of staff, the general bureau of logistics, Ministry of National Defense. 06/25/1950. Deputy commander of an artillery division. 1953. Deputy commander of an artillery corps. 1958. Chief of staff, Artillery Command. 1963. Deputy commander of the Artillery Command. 1970. Commander of the Artillery Command (major general). 12/1972. Deputy to the Fifth SPA (continuously to the Ninth SPA). 1977. Missile base commander. 10/10/1980. Candidate member of the Party Central Committee, and deputy chief of the General Staff (lieutenant general). 04/1984. Commander of the 5th Corps. 07/1984. Member of the Party Central Committee. 02/1985. Vice minister of the people's Armed Forces. 04/13/1985. Promoted to full general. 05/1990. Member of the National Defense Commission. [end box]

### Ministry: Soviet Sailor Not Seeking Asylum

*SK1803132591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1310 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry on Monday denied an earlier report that a Soviet sailor had sought an asylum in the United States after he escaped from his ship staying at Korea's western port of Kunsan.

Vyacheslav Chuprakov, 28, was sent back to the ship Monday after he was found with no intention to seek asylum in an interrogation, a ministry official said. Chuprakov wanted to go back to his ship, he added.

"Fuddled with drink, Chuprakov caught a taxi with two of his colleagues early in the Sunday morning," the official said. "The cabbie, puzzled with a language barrier, took them for American soldiers and drove to a neighboring U.S. air base."

The other two Soviets were learned to have fled from the scene when the taxi stopped at an American military camp.

The 4,199-ton freight ship, Kapitan Ijotov, is scheduled to leave Kunsan at 1 A.M. Tuesday (kst) after unloading cargo.

The vessel arrived at Kunsan on March 15 with 5,100 tons of molasses.

### Communications Conference Opens in Seoul 18 Mar

*SK1903020591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 91 p 3*

[Text] Soviet Minister of Posts and Telecommunications G.G. Kudryavtsev, is here in Seoul, leading a six-member Soviet delegation at an international conference which opened yesterday, to discuss the $500 million trans-Soviet fiber optic cable-laying project.

Fifty government officials and telecommunication experts from 10 countries, including host Korea, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Japan are participating in the five-day Seoul conference to discuss the timetable of the project and participants in the work.

Korea is assured of undertaking the fourth and last section of the 1,400km cable-laying work, from Nakhodka-to-Japan, jointly with Japan for $47 million, officials of Korea Telecom, the main Korean contractor, said yesterday.

The trans-Siberian cable will run 1,400kms from Japan to Denmark and is part of the Soviet government's ambitious program to modernize its outdated telecommunication systems.

### Discussions Held With Soviets

*SK1903094191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—South Korean Communications Minister Song On-chong and G.G. Kudriavtsev, the Soviet minister of posts and telecommunications, agreed in talks Tuesday to strengthen mutual cooperation in telecommunications.

In line with the rapid expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries, the two ministers shared the view that Seoul and Moscow should closely cooperate to improve telecommunication services by increasing direct telephone lines and opening an electronic mail service as soon as possible, a Ministry official said.

Stressing the need of reciprocal cooperation between private enterprises in the telecommunications equipment field, Song and Kudriavtsev also agreed to positively help private companies to activate joint-venture projects in the manufacture of telephone digital exchanges (TDX), facsimiles and telephones.

Kudriavtsev promised that Moscow would do its best to realize joint production of the Korean TDX in the Soviet Union by completing standard-license procedures at an early date, he said.

## Company To Build Industrial Complex in Vietnam

*SK1903083591 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Mar 91 p 7*

[Text] An ROK company will build a large-scale industrial complex in Vietnam. Paek Yong-ki, president of the Tongguk Trading Company, said on 18 March that his company and the Vietnamese Government agreed that his company "will lease an area of 300,000 pyong in the Song Be region for 50 years to build a large-scale industrial complex for small and medium-sized businesses from our country." This is the first time a private company from our country has made an agreement with the Vietnamese Government to lease land on a long-term basis to build an industrial complex, and the business circles expect that this is important because the industrial complex will become a beachhead for our businesses' entry into Vietnam.

President Paek also said that "Vice President Kim Song-kyu visited Vietnam on 6-14 March and agreed with (Nguyen Van Luong), a minister [title as published] of the Song Be Province, and (Giang Ngoc Can), chairman of the People's Committee, to build a textile and dressmaking industrial complex in an area of 300,000 pyong," adding that his company is "the first to build a large-scale industrial complex in Vietnam."

He also said: Tongguk will carry out this project in two stages; it will first lease an area of 300,000 pyong in the Song Be region for 50 years and build an industrial complex using its technology and capital, and will later lease an area of more than 500,000 pyong for 80 years to build another industrial complex. He also said that the Vietnamese Government would lease the area free of charge, establish a "special economic zone" in this region at the earliest possible date, and provide ROK businesses with electricity, manpower, transportation services, and customs services on a priority basis.

President Paek also said that "this project has been mapped out since last June, when Minister [title as published] (Nguyen Van Luong), (Ho Minh Pung), first deputy chairman of the People's Committee, and other high-level Vietnamese officials visited the ROK and advised our side to build an industrial complex," adding: "Vietnamese officials again visited the ROK last December to discuss investment plans." He also said: "Our examination of the area shows that Vietnam's wage level is very low, $15 [as published], and Vietnamese are skillful with their hands. Therefore, Vietnam is a good place to build an industrial complex for local businesses that are trying to go overseas because of high wages at home." He predicted that "because an agreement has already been reached on details of the project, we will start construction upon receiving permission from our government, probably by the end of this year."

## Red Cross Official Visits SRV, Delivers Money

*SK1903083491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) has delivered 20,000 U.S. dollars to Vietnam to support its five-year development fund and help care for war victims, a KNRC spokesman said Tuesday.

Half the money was handed over to Nguyen Trong Nhan, president of the Red Cross of Vietnam, by KNRC Vice President Yi Yong-tuk, who arrived in Hanoi earlier in the day, the spokesman said.

The other 10,000 dollars was donated by Hanjin Transportation Co., which asked that it be used to care for war victims and for other activities of the Red Cross branch in Ho Chi Minh City, he said.

The first 10,000 dollars will go into Vietnam's five-year development fund, he said.

## Bruneian Official Initials Aviation Pact

*SK1903084791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0752 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—Negotiators of South Korea and Brunei initialed a draft of a bilateral aviation pact here Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said.

Korea was represented by Kim Sam-hun, director general of the Foreign Ministry International Trade Bureau, and Brunei by Dato Paduka Job Lim, director general of civil aviation at the Commmunications Ministry.

The draft pact stipulates that the governments of the two nations may designate airlines and authorize them to serve the other's cities.

They agreed to have further discussions on transit points and beyond-point rights, and the specifics of opening a route.

Brunei joins its ASEAN partners, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, in having aviation pacts with Korea.

## Gulf War Teams Likely To Return Home in Apr

*SK1903023491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—The South Korean military medical team and air force transport unit assigned to support the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf war is expected home in early April.

After looking at the possibility of keeping the support teams in the region to help war ravaged nations, or sending them to Kuwait to join the U.N. peacekeeping forces, it was decided to bring them home, a government official said Tuesday.

"Based on the decision, the government will hold a cabinet meeting this week to fix the method and time of their withdrawal in detail and will announce them soon," he said on condition of anonymity.

Defense Ministry sources said 314 members of the teams were likely to return home around April 10 aboard the five C-130 Hercules transport planes that have been in the Gulf since February.

According to the Defense Ministry, the 154-member medical team stationed in al-Nuairia, northeastern Saudi Arabia, since Jan. 30, has treated 1,254 soldiers and civilians.

The 160-member air force unit, based with the U.S. Air Force at al-Ayn in the United Arab Emirates since Feb. 26, airlifted 730 allied troops and 333.5 tons of freight in 148 flights.

## DPRK Said To Close 10 Embassies in Africa

*SK1603055391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea is putting up the shutters on many of its embassies in Africa as it reorganizes its foreign policy to adapt to a changing international diplomatic climate and responds to serious economic difficulties at home.

"I know that North Korea has already withdrawn its diplomatic mission from Sierra Leone and has informed several African nations, including Niger and Gabon, that it will be closing its embassies, starting with the embassy in Zambia in early February," a government official said Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Basically, North Korea is believed to have decided to close about 10 embassies in Africa," he said.

The closures do not mean Pyongyang is severing diplomatic ties with these nations, which will be served by ambassadors based in neighboring countries.

The North is reducing its spending and changing its foreign policy emphasis to the United States, Japan and Southeast Asian countries, which are increasingly important to Pyongyang for political, diplomatic and economic reasons.

## Opposition Claims 'Reckless' Government Pledges

*SK1603023091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Mar 91 p 2*

[Text] A series of far-reaching economic blueprints unveiled by the government are irritating opposition camps and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] yesterday urged it to stop this "pork-barrelling campaigning" immediately.

The PPD held a serious discussion of the issue in a meeting of its leadership following president Kim Tae-chung's denunciation of such plans in a rally of party members in the southern Seoul suburb of Songnam, the PPD power base, Thursday.

After the meeting, spokesman Pak Sang-chon accused the administration of announcing "reckless" plans for the development of provinces and business sectors without a thorough review and considerations of the impact on the government budget in an attempt to draw undecided voters to its candidates in the local council elections.

"The administration has been putting forward a series of plans including third land development project which requires an enormous sum of 26.2 billion won and plans for the financing of companies for enhanced competitiveness of their products," he noted.

"It is a clear evidence of the administration's involvement in the campaigns. The Chongwadae meeting to chart out schemes to beef up domestic firms' international competitiveness was televised live on Thursday.

The rare, full telecast of the presidential meeting invited bitter reaction from all walks of life.

Government agencies are "inventing" such sugar-coated plans one after another to woo voters, the PPD said.

The Education Ministry, together with The Economic Planning Board and Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries Ministry, said yesterday that all pupils at primary schools would be offered free lunches within six years.

The PPD and splinter opposition Democratic Party [DP] further maintained that the "terrific" atmosphere created by intelligence agencies has resulted in pro-opposition candidates dropping out of the race for local council seats.

DP leader Yi Ki-taek alleged that just one telephone call from the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] is driving candidates to withdraw thus leaving ruling party candidates unopposed.

PPD's Kim said Thursday that he has secured evidence of the NSP's intervention in campaigns.

## Professors' Group Signs Suso Scandal Petition

*SK1903094791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0907 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—A total of 1,330 professors have signed a petition calling for reinvestigation of the Suso housing scandal, a dissident professors' group said Tuesday.

The National Professors' Association for Democratization said Suso was the worst maladministration involving the presidential office, the ruling party, a conglomerate, an oppostion party and journalists since the current government took power. If the government continued its cover-up, it would face a major nationwide resistance, it warned.

## Optimum Size of Constituency Systems Debated

*SK1903034391 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 19 Mar 91 p 5*

[From the "Political Scene" column]

[Text] Contrary to the fact that some corners of the ruling circles had been referring to the adoption of medium-major constituency systems, Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam recently said that he would insist on a small constituency system. In connection with this, attention has focused on the selection of the presidential candidate and whether or not the National Assembly electoral district system will be changed.

Following the bribery case involving some National Assembly Trade and Industry Committee members and the Suso scandal, the core members of the ruling circles have considered the adoption of medium-major constituency systems to promote a "clear money-free political atmosphere." However, Executive Chairman Kim and other people in the party who support the small constituency system responded to those moves by saying that medium-major constituency systems cost more money than a small constituency system.

Some DLP lawmakers from big cities and those from the Honam [Cholla provinces] region hope at heart that medium-major constituency systems will be adopted. Meanwhile, the party leadership has examined various ways to win a majority of seats in the National Assembly.

A high-ranking party official said that "the small constituency system will be maintained if Executive Chairman Kim and his Reunification Democratic Party faction run in the 14th general elections on a DLP ticket," adding: "I cannot reject the possibility that medium-major constituency systems will be adopted if the DLP undergoes a 'sudden change.'"

## Security Agency Investigates Students, Soldiers

*SK1903085491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—The Defense Security Command (DSC), harshly criticized for its surveillance of civilians last year, is now engaged in an investigation of radical students and soldiers who are former activists.

The Defense Ministry admitted Tuesday that a secret probe had been launched and that 11 DSC units across the nation had been requested to investigate six students and six former students of Seoul's Sogang University.

DSC in Seoul sent out a facsimile March 16 to chiefs of 11 DSC units asking them to investigate the personal relations, beliefs and activities of the students and servicemen and to submit their findings in written reports by Thursday.

It also asked that their friends and relatives be questioned.

Of special concern regarding the six soldiers was whether they had read "ideological and impure" books or received visitors on the police blacklist.

Among the 12 are Yi Chong-chu, 21, who once ran for student council president, and Ko Yong-ho, 23, a leader of Sogang Students' Special Alliance back in 1989.

The Ministry said they were under investigation as members of a radical organization and were suspected of trying to "contaminate" other soldiers with revolutionary theories.

They regard the armed forces as a "foe to be destroyed" and so the DSC investigation, which has the cooperation of the civilian police, was necessary to protect the armed forces, the Ministry said.

## Labor Minister Reports to No on Plans, Goals

*SK1903022391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—Inexpensive housing, single-digit inflation and trust between unions and management are the immediate requirements for social harmony, Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol said Tuesday.

Managers and workers should have equitable shares of the fruit of their labors, and should work hard at every product they make, Choe reported to President No Tae-u.

Political, union and corporate representatives gathered at Chongwadae to hear Choe outline his ministry's plans, after which a debate was begun to bring about a "social consensus for industrial peace and economic re-takeoff."

Price and wage stability, mid- and long-range welfare plans, an end to friction and distrust between unions and management, and revitalization of work places are all needed, the labor minister said.

He said the government was determined to seek stable house and consumer prices, restrict unearned income and make cheap housing widely available.

Construction of 250,000 housing units would be completed by 1992, Choe reported, and from 1993 low-priced units would be built in large numbers on public land.

The government would assure workers that they could own a home if they stayed in their jobs, Choe said.

The government was planning special tax benefits for workers, and would draw labor and management into active participation in government policy meetings to give them a bigger say in economic decisions, he said.

Lawful order is not open to compromise, the minister firmly said, adding all violators, whether union or management, would be punished.

He demanded that corporate leaders treat their employees humanely, make their welfare a prime consideration of company operation and earn their respect. They should also work with their employees to set up productivity campaigns and share the profits with them.

Choe urged workers to put their best into every single product they made, refrain from making difficult wage demands when their company is in a financial bind and stop trying to solve problems with force.

### Union Leaders Urged To Make 'Reasonable' Demands

*SK1903063891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told union leaders Tuesday to keep their demands within economically reasonable bounds, and said management must stop relying on the police to solve labor conflicts.

In a debate carried live on nationwide television and radio with over 220 labor, corporate and social leaders, No listed stable consumer prices, wages and industrial relations as the factors that would determine the future of the Korean economy.

The purpose of the exercise, which followed a report by Labor Affairs Minister Choe Pyong-yol outlining plans to revamp industry and improve living conditions for the country's workers, was billed as establishing a "social consensus for industrial peace and economic re-takeoff."

"The government will reduce the budget to its smallest possible size to stabilize inflation," No said, adding that the government had the biggest role in forming a social consensus.

"Anti-authoritarian, radical ideologists are still leading the labor movement," he said, warning that in the future it must base its demands on economic reasonableness.

"The corporations should stop relying on the police to solve their problems and halt those practices that invite continued conflict," the president said.

He also ordered Choe to encourage workers to get a higher education and to prepare a plan to improve their welfare.

## Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

## Malaysia

### Cabinet Reshuffle Includes Party Rivals

*BK1603102991 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Mar 91 p 17*

[By Ismail Kassim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—UMNO's [United Malays National Organization] rising star, Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim, today moves from Education to Finance, while his rival, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, returns to the Cabinet as Foreign Minister in a reshuffle that was announced more than a month ago.

Their appointments reflect the priority that Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed is placing on economic development and foreign policy.

According to observers, this is the first time that both portfolios are held by senior UMNO leaders. Because of their re-election as UMNO vice-presidents nearly four months ago, both are seen as potential successors to the premiership.

The Cabinet changes also affected Datuk Dr. Sulaiman Daud and Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

Dr. Sulaiman gives up Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs to go over to Education, while his portfolio goes to Datuk Abu Hassan, the incumbent Foreign Minister.

All the transfers were caused by the departure of Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin, who insisted on retiring after steering the nation's economy for almost seven years.

Since the announcement of the Cabinet reshuffle, the three ministers and Datuk Abdullah have been going about their normal duties.

According to their aides, none had the luxury of familiarising himself with his new responsibilities.

"It is just not the Malaysian way. When you take over, then you get the briefings," said one of them.

Hence, aside from attending the recent Bali economic conference with Dr. Mahathir, Datuk Anwar was devoting his time to tying up loose ends at his ministry and to the proposed Education Act, which is scheduled to be submitted to Parliament in June.

An aide said that Datuk Anwar was not unfamiliar to Finance as he had acted in the post in the absence of Datuk Daim many times over the last few years and he knew many of the senior officers in the ministry.

As for Datuk Abdullah, who was re-elected by a big margin as UMNO vice-president last November, he was busy attending to party work.

His aide said that he met Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Ong Teng Cheong, who is also the Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress, and Minister for National Development S. Dhanabalan when both were here for informal discussions.

With his new posting, the 43-year-old Datuk Anwar will have a golden opportunity to widen his base of support among the non-Malays, who form about 45 percent of the country's 18 million population.

To the latter, he is still widely seen as a radical because of his past as a rebel, student activist and Muslim youth leader, championing issues such as the Malay language and Islamic solidarity.

UMNO insiders unanimously felt that Datuk Anwar was being groomed by Dr. Mahathir to take over the nation's leadership when the latter steps down in the mid-1990s.

They said that he was being exposed to the world of high finance as part of the preparations.

But while Datuk Anwar is preparing to shed his Islamic image, some of his detractors are determined to remind him of his past. In an effort to embarrass him, they raised the question of how he proposed to Islamise the economy.

As for the popular and widely respected Datuk Abdullah, 52, observers expect him to adopt a higher profile in guiding the nation's external affairs than his predecessor.

They said that his return to the Cabinet had sparked more enthusiasm among the UMNO grassroots than the transfer of Datuk Anwar to Finance.

To a large extent, this reflected the feelings in the rank and file of UMNO that the succession to Dr. Mahathir should be decided at a later stage by the party delegates.

### Foreign Minister Stresses Greater ASEAN Harmony

*BK1603115091 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Mar 91 p 17*

[By Kalimullah Hassan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Malaysian foreign policy is likely to veer towards fostering greater regional co-operation from the high-profile international politics it has been involved in over the past decade.

A senior Malaysian diplomat said the two key targets of Malaysian diplomacy in the near future would be geared towards realising its proposal for the East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) and fostering better relations with its ASEAN neighbours.

Malaysia would also stridently oppose any move to set up foreign military bases in the region and try to keep South-east Asia a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan), he said.

"Some of us feel that it is time to take a bigger role in regional affairs rather than international politics.

"The Gulf conflict has shown that while we can play a pivotal role sometimes, the big powers, in particular the United States, ultimately bull-doze their views through," the diplomat said.

He said it would be better that Malaysia take a leading role regionally where it could make a greater impact towards achieving peace and prosperity for itself and its neighbours.

He added that the appointment of Datuk Abdullah Badawi as Foreign Minister today would certainly see greater liaison with ASEAN.

"While we will continue to make our voice heard on international issues, the trend is now likely to focus more on the region," he said.

Datuk Abdullah, 51, enjoys close relations with his counterparts in Singapore and Indonesia—two of Malaysia's most important friends in the region.

Another senior diplomat said: "His relations with leaders in these two countries are very important to us because although we are good friends, when relations are this close, they also become touchy on often trivial issues."

The diplomat said that relations with Singapore and Indonesia have often been marred by actions which upset domestic sensitivities.

"Datuk Abdullah knows his Singapore counterpart Wong Kan Seng very well and enjoys good rapport with Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Mr. Ong Teng Cheong and Mr. Dhanabalan.

"He also gets along fairly well with Indonesia's Ali Alatas. This should help," a close aide to the minister said.

He said Datuk Abdullah would also have to work very hard on the EAEG.

"Although ASEAN has accepted the proposal in principle, only Singapore has come out in full support without reservations," the aide said.

One diplomat said: "With the United States expressing its opposition to the EAEG and the pressure it is applying on countries not to support the proposal, he would have to spend much time convincing countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and even ASEAN members like Indonesia to give full support to the EAEG."

Foreign Ministry officials said Datuk Abdullah, who was Defence Minister until May 1987, has also previously told Mr. Goh and Mr. Ong of his opposition to any foreign military presence in the region.

The senior diplomat said that although foreign policy was largely dictated by the Cabinet, "it normally acts on advice from the Foreign Minister".

"Given Datuk Abdullah's opinions on certain matters, he is likely to continue opposing any foreign military presence in the region," the diplomat said, referring to a request by Philippines Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos for ASEAN to discuss American military bases in the Philippines.

The diplomat said that despite the likely shift towards regional affairs, Datuk Abdullah would probably continue to advise that Malaysia play a key role in Muslim-world issues like the Palestinian problem.

"It is a matter close to the hearts of Malaysian leaders and the predominantly Muslim population. It would be a good issue to enhance his political reputation domestically," he said.

## New Foreign Minister Profiled

*BK1903040591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 91 p A9*

[By Sonny Inbaraj]

[Text] The appointment of Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Malaysia's new foreign minister and the assumption of his duties on March 15, reflects the priority Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad is placing on foreign policy.

The popular and widely respected Datuk Abdullah is expected to adopt a higher profile in guiding the nation's external affairs than his predecessor Datuk Abu Hassan Omar who has been transferred to the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.

Malaysia's increasing role in the Commonwealth, the Group of 15, South-South cooperation countries, the Organization of Islamic Countries, and even in the United Nations itself, warrants a more dynamic leadership in Wisma Putra.

Besides these, several new initiatives have been taken by Malaysia to inculcate intra-ASEAN and inter-Asian cooperation.

The most recent step is the promotion of the concept of the East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), a pet topic of Mahathir, who mooted the idea himself late last year soon after the collapse of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

The trade proposal is aimed at countering the trade blocs being formed in Europe and North America and has been greeted with little enthusiasm from some countries. The strongest criticism is that it will diminish the role of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) and thereby complicate the achievement of its aims.

Apec members include ASEAN, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Korea and the United States. Set up in 1989, its achievements to date have been some "planned" programmes for human resource development.

Describing the benefits of the proposal, Mahathir told an international conference on ASEAN and the world economy in Bali recently that the EAEG would enable Asian countries to speak with one voice and stop the slide towards protectionism and to preserve free trade in East Asia.

In order to get Mahathir's proposal off the drawing-board, the Ministry of International Trade has made special efforts in promoting the EAEG concept among ASEAN countries. This in turn requires strong diplomatic efforts on the part of Wisma Putra to compliment the Ministry of International Trade's lobbying.

Observers believe Datuk Abdullah is the best person to head the Foreign Ministry at this crucial moment when Malaysia is also trying to play a leading role in ASEAN itself. He has served as minister in the Prime Minister's Department, education minister and defence minister.

On the domestic front, Datuk Abdullah has been a controversial politician. In 1987, he quit Mahathir's Cabinet when a faction headed by former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah failed to oust the premier as president of the United Malays National Organization (Umno). Umno is the main component party in the ruling National Front coalition.

In 1988, Umno was declared an illegal political party by the High Court based on a petition filed by Razaleigh's faction and Mahathir formed a fledgling New Umno or Umno (Baru) later that year.

Datuk Abdullah then switched camps and supported Mahathir in trying to reconstruct the New Umno. In 1989, he was appointed vice-president of Umno (Baru) by Mahathir and at the party's general assembly later he received the second highest votes among the six candidates for the Umno (Baru) Supreme Council.

Since 1989, there was speculation that Datuk Abdullah would be brought into the Cabinet by Mahathir. For instance after the Malaysian general elections in which Mahathir's ruling National Front garnered a two-thirds majority in parliament, rumours were rife in Kuala Lumpur that Datuk Abdullah would be included in the premier's Cabinet list.

That however never materialized and certain Umno (Baru) quarters were wary that Datuk Abdullah was left out in the cold by Mahathir because of his previous support for Razaleigh.

In the meantime groundswell support for Datuk Abdullah within Umno (Baru) was growing. At the party's general assembly last November, he managed again to retain his vice-presidency along with Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Agriculture Minister Sanusi Junid. The writings on the wall were clear Umno delegates wanted the status quo to be preserved. Many felt Mahathir was becoming too dictatorial and there had to be a balance in the form of a dissenting voice in the Umno (Baru) Supreme Council.

In the succession to be the nation's prime minister, Datuk Abdullah is ranked as third coming behind Anwar Ibrahim and Sanusi Junid. By convention, the prime minister of Malaysia is the president of Umno. Umno insiders say Anwar Ibrahim is being groomed by Mahathir to take over the nation's leadership when the later steps down in the mid-1990s.

Umno grassroots however say the succession to Mahathir should be decided at a later stage by party delegates and observers point out the presence of Datuk Abdullah in the Supreme Council as a vice-president is an indication that Mahathir's choice as prime minister-in-waiting will not be agreed upon.

When Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin insisted on retiring after steering the country's economy for almost seven years, Mahathir carried out a minor Cabinet reshuffle. To appease the grassroots members within Umno (Baru), Datuk Abdullah was considered for a Cabinet position by Mahathir. His previous experience in the administration pointed out that he was most suited for the Foreign Ministry.

Critics were quick to jump to the conclusion that this was a ploy by the premier to isolate Datuk Abdullah from his supporters because of the fact that by being foreign minister he would be abroad most of the time and would not be able to concentrate on domestic issues. This however is left to be seen.

Leaving domestic squabbles aside, the appointment of Datuk Abdullah as foreign minister would certainly see greater liaison within Asean. Datuk Abdullah enjoys close relations with his counterparts in Singapore and Indonesia. He knows his Singapore counterpart Wong Kan Seng very•well and enjoys good rapport with Indonesia's Ali Alatas.

Datuk Abdullah is stridently opposed to any move to set up any foreign military bases in the region and is committed to transforming Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality (Zopfan). When he was defence minister in 1987, he told the then Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong that he was opposed to any foreign military presence in the region.

Malaysia would also be advised by Datuk Abdullah to play a key role in the Palestinian issue. It is a matter close to the heart of Malaysian leader and the predominantly Muslim population. It would also be a good issue to enhance Datuk Abdullah's political reputation domestically.

## Singapore

### French Navy Ship Introduced at Defense Show

*BK1903004291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Singapore, March 18 (AFP)—France, which has the largest national pavilion at Asia's top defence show, is introducing the Iris P140, its sophisticated vessel for coastal air defense.

The vessel, designed by Thomson-CSF, will be a major exhibit and the company's flagship at Defence Asia '91, being held here Wednesday to Saturday.

"We hope to market the vessel very agressively at the navies of the regional countries which will be attending the show," said Olivier Lafaye, the company's delegate.

The Iris P140 is designed specifically to protect coastal seaways and land and sea facilities against air and missile attacks.

In addition to the French national pavilion with its 28 companies, other pavilions have been set up by the United States, with 20 companies, Australia with 15, and India with eight.

A total of 150 exhibitors from 22 countries will be taking part in the exhibition, which was also held here in 1989.

## Cambodia

### Hor Namhong Meets With Australian Minister

*BK1903072291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0447 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 19—A working session on peace moves in Cambodia was held here Monday 19 March morning between Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Mr. Michael Costello, deputy secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on a visit to Cambodia.

At the session, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong informed the Australian guest and his party of the content of the latest meeting between the Supreme National Council [SNC] members and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] held in December last year, saying that the State of Cambodia respected the decision made by the meeting as mentioned in the communique dated December 23,1990, and that an SNC meeting should be reconvened so as to discuss the remaining questions which are in the capacity of the SNC with the aim of preparing for a meeting of the coordinating committee of the PICC.

He also made krown the State of Cambodia's stance on the genocidal practices of the Pol Pot clique and on military developments.

On the genocidal Pol Pot clique, Minister Hor Namhong said: "That the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique overtly and flagrantly massacred Cambodians has been widely known in the world. Now the Khmer Rouge and their coalition are intensifying their attacks by using tanks and artillery pieces. These acts show that they always nurture their dark design to take back power by militry means, which means the threat of genocide still remains real and actual to Cambodian people."

In any settlement to the Cambodian issue, he said, concrete measures must be mentioned to ward off the return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot clique. To do so, he went on, would be a fair response to the Cambodian people's and the whole mankind's aspiration and in conformity with the 1948 UN convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

About the military situation, the foreign minister said that the maintenance of the military status quo is one of the concrete measures to check the recurrence of the genocidal regime. He also referred to some other measures for peace in Cambodia, namely the execution of a cease-fire to promote mutual confidence among the conflicting parties and to stop the bloodshed, the cessation of outside military assistance to all warring faction, the commitment of the neighbouring countries, namely Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, not to allow the transfer of arms through their territories to all conflicting groups, and the sending of a UN fact-finding mission to the refugee camps under the control of the opposition factions.

In reply, Mr. Michael Costello thanked Minister Hor Namhong for briefing him on the State of Cambodia's position, and said he had sympathy with the desire to prevent the recurrence of the genocidal regime and military developments.

The deputy secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that his visit this time helped him better understand the reality in this country, especially Cambodia's stance, adding that he had an impression that the outside circles seem not to well understand the real stance of the State of Cambodia.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality.

### Chea Soth Thanks Japan for Settlement Initiative

*BK1703075691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, granted an audience to Tasuya, president of the Bangkok-based Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee, on the morning of 15 March.

On that occasion, Comrade Chea Soth briefed the guest on the development of the situation in Cambodia, pointing out the goodwill of the State of Cambodia's government, which has made a great many concessions toward settling the conflict with a view to bringing about genuine peace for the Cambodian people. The comrade also denounced the perfidious maneuvers carried on by the three reactionary Cambodian factions to destroy the tranquility of the people living in remote areas along the Cambodian-Thai border. Comrade Chea Soth thanked the Japanese government for its initiative in promoting a political settlement of the Cambodian problem and its assistance to the Cambodian people, contributing to rebuilding Cambodia, which was utterly destroyed by the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

In his reply, Tasuya thanked the State of Cambodia's government for having offered warm welcome and favorable conditions to him, making his fact-finding mission in Cambodia a success. He also expressed hope of setting up an office in Phnom Penh in the near future.

## Heng Samrin Congratulates Mongolian Leader

*BK1703123091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, addressed a congratulatory message to Comrade Gombojabyn, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee. Among other things the message says:

On behalf of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, the entire Cambodian people, and in my own name, I would like to express sincere and warmest congratulations to you on your appointment as general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee. I am convinced that the relations of fraternal friendship and multiform cooperation between our two parties and people, Cambodia and Mongolia, will continue to develop. Best wishes to you for good health and great success in carrying out your noble task.

## Heng Samrin Visits Preah Sdach District

*BK1803144191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] On the afternoon of 15 March, a high-level party-state delegation headed by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's State Council, paid a visit and distributed gifts, such as sarongs and scarves, to the outstanding families in Preah Sdach District of Prey Veng Province.

On that occasion, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin thanked and extolled the district's population, who have as ever sacrificed their cherished children and husbands to serving in the army, he said: Although children and husbands of some compatriots have already fallen or been disabled, their fames and noble examples of heroism have been engraved in history, and they will be remembered by the state and the entire people forever. He stressed: In a situation where our country has not yet arrived at a political solution, our compatriots should continue to become more zealously involved in the cause of defending the nation and their localities with a view toward ensuring tranquility and stability and blocking the genocidal Pol Pot regime's attempted return.

## Khmer Rouge Assists KPNLF in Battle

*BK1903023191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 91 p 6*

[Text] The Khmer Rouge joined in military operations with a US-backed resistance group for the first time to halt an offensive by the Vietnamese-backed government, a Thai military source told UPI yesterday.

A border officer, who asked not to be identified, said the Khmer Rouge forces provided arms and battle assistance to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) for the first time in fighting over the past week in northwestern district of Thmar Pouk.

He said the assistance of the Khmer Rouge forces helped the KPNLF to recapture ground lost to a recent drive by Phnom Penh government troops.

"This recapture is due to the help of thousands of Khmer Rouge soldiers," he said.

The officer said the combined resistance operation has forced government troops to retreat to about 10km from Thmar Pouk.

KPNLF officials in Bangkok were not immediately available to comment on the report.

Late last week more than 2,000 Cambodian government troops backed by tanks, armoured personnel carriers and rocket launchers, mounted an offensive against Thmar Pouk and nearby "liberated zones" controlled by the KPNLF.

Although there has been informal battlefield cooperation before, it was believed to be the first time that the non-communist resistance joined in such a large military operation with the Khmer Rouge against the Phnom Penh troops.

The United States, which provides official aid to the KPNLF, has repeatedly warned the group against military cooperation with the Khmer Rouge, who are blamed for the deaths of some 1 million people during their 1975-1979 rule.

A KPNLF officer told reporters at the Thai-Cambodian border that his troops were compelled to seek Khmer Rouge support because they had run out of ammunition.

"We must help each other otherwise we will have no place to stay. If they did not help us, they would have been the next to be attacked," the resistance officer said.

Both Phnom Penh and the resistance have suffered heavy casualties in the fighting, the Thai officer said.

For the first time, resistance fighters have been using tanks and heavy artillery extensively against government forces in the northwest region, officials from both sides told AP.

### Article on Changing Khmer Rouge Tactics

*BK1903042991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 91 p 5*

["Cambodian Diary" by Jacques Bekaert: "The new Khmer Rouge policy"]

[Text] Last September, a few days after the four Khmer factions had signed an agreement in Jakarta accepting the framework for peace proposed by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (the Khmer Rouge, or PDK) organised a series of seminars and meetings along the Thai-Cambodian border to define a new approach to the war. Weeks were spent explaining the new political line to dozens of diplomats and military commanders, some of whom had been called back from deep inside Cambodia for the occasion.

This was the largest gathering of PDK senior members in years. Probably since the large-scale Vietnamese border offensive of 1984-85, which forced the Khmer Rouge to adjust their policy.

"We are certainly aware that the Cambodian population is tired of the war and want peace more than anything else," a senior Khmer Rouge source told us a few months ago, after attending the border seminars. The international desire to see peace in Cambodia, the attitude of the Khmer population and, some sources say, pressures from China, convinced the Khmer Rouge leadership that it was better to support the Perm Five plan, and focus their struggle on political rather than military matters.

The idea of a Supreme National Council (SNC) had already been accepted by Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen in Tokyo in May 1990. The concept was part of the Perm Five plan, and the first SNC meeting took place in Bangkok a few days after the four Khmer factions' meeting in Jakarta. Nothing came of it. The 12 members—six representing the Phnom Penh side, six the resistance—failed to agree on anything.

But the Khmer Rouge leadership understood the propaganda value of such an institution. In the weeks following the Jakarta agreement and the series of border meetings, the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea, which has broadcast from southern China since 1979, brought new slogans to Cambodian population's attention. And a vast campaign started in the villages controlled or visited by the Khmer Rouge.

"We knew it was time to move from military warfare to political warfare," a Khmer Rouge source said.

Military commanders went back inside Cambodia with strict instructions. They were to avoid big battles and concentrate on "agitprop," or political propaganda. One main theme emerged: The true authority in Cambodia is the SNC, under Samdech Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The population was encouraged to reject the Phnom Penh administration. After all, the Khmer Rouge emphasised, even Mr Hun Sen had signed the Jakarta agreement, and the SNC is recognised by everybody.

It worked, at least to a degree, as sources in Phnom Penh later admitted. The Khmer Rouge also insisted that once again the time had come for a "great national unity" among the Khmer people. One of the new slogans declares: "The Cambodian nation and all Cambodian people need great national union without splits or bickerings, without white, black, red or blue, without trying to tear at each other's throats. The Cambodian nation and people need to be united for permanent peace, independence, territorial integrity, and stablity."

What certainly did not change was the attitude of the PDK toward Vietnam and the leadership of the ruling People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK). Another slogan says: "No more Vietnamese puppet administration in Cambodia. There must be the Supreme National Council with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the chairman and National Councils in all provinces, districts, communes and villages throughout Cambodia."

On the 20th of December the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea announced that National Councils had been set up in four provinces: Battambang, Kompong Cham, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom.

According to the Radio, meetings were held in these provinces—where indeed there is substantial Khmer Rouge presence—on the 5th of December. These meetings announced "the dissolution of the aggressor state authorities of the Vietnamese enemy and Hun Sen and Heng Samrin—Vietnam's puppets and lackeys and traitors to the nation." The meetings also declared "their support for the SNC headed by Prince Sihanouk."

The broadcast also urged Cambodians to unite and "to continue the struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and ringleaders of the traitorous clique of Hun Sen and Heng Samrin...to force them to implement all UN documents aimed at solving Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia comprehensively and justly."

Phnom Penh reacted to this campaign by sending dozens of senior officials to the province to counter the Khmer Rouge propaganda, and explain that nothing had changed, that the administration had not been dismantled, that there was no new authority at any level, that the SNC had mostly a symbolic function, that a vote for Sihanouk or Son Sann would be a vote for Pol Pot.

In late January this year the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea broadcast an interview with an unnamed "representative of the National Council of Battambang town." The interview came as reports from the province indicated a moderate increase in military activity. The Council member accused the Phnom Penh army and their Vietnamese allies of serious misconduct, claiming there was extensive looting, and even rape.

There is great confusion in Battambang, he explained, and the population is not allowed to leave the city while "Vietnamese policemen go from house to house in search of resistance fighters, charging that the inhabitants of Battambang have been harbouring them."

As usual, such reports are probably vastly exaggerated. But the Khmer Rouge radio is a weapon, used for its political value, not for any accurate reporting. Its language has no appeal to Westerners, a fact that is certainly of no great concern to the PDK leadership; it is a means of communicating the correct line to militants and improve the spirit of the Khmer Rouge soldiers. It also affects the local population. After all, reports of chaos in Battambang may help to further destabilise the Phnom Penh regime.

"The national resistance forces are mounting attacks on the Vietnamese genocidal enemy aggressors from all directions. Battambang town is now under siege," explained the mysterious Council member. In late January and early February there was indeed some fighting and shelling near Battambang. According to several sources there was also some serious fighting between soldiers and policemen of the Phnom Penh regime. Such bloody disputes, over some business rights, are not unusual, probably unavoidable with soldiers poorly trained and badly paid.

The Khmer Rouge army actually does little fighting. The PDK understands the crucial importance of political warfare, especially at a time when the Perm Five are still trying to get all factions to accept their plan. The Khmer Rouge leadership claims that it would be foolish to attempt to capture a large provincial town, "because it would only attract the Vietnamese" and thus be impossible, as Khieu Samphan recently told members of the resistance.

But the Khmer Rouge are like patient termites, as one diplomat recently remarked. You hardly see them, you hardly hear them. Their secrecy is an essential element of their efficiency. This fact alone explains some of Phnom Penh's fears.

## Military Activities in Banteay Meanchey Reported

*BK1703125091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1117 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh 16 March (SPK)—The armed forces of Banteay Meanchey Province put out of action 127 enemy soldiers during a mopping-up operation from 9 to 11 March in the areas of Bos Sbov, Phnum Srok, Preah Net Preah, and Thmar Puok, according to military sources. They said 53 enemy soldiers were killed, 57 others wounded, and 17 taken prisoners. Fifty six rifles, two generators, and a walkie-talkie were seized and six tonnes of ammunition destroyed.

The same sources say that during the first week of March, enemy forces continued their artillery pounding on hamlets and communes in Kompong Thom, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces and that government forces had launched 11 counterattacks and put out of action 128 enemy soldiers, including 55 killed, 38 wounded, and 15 taken prisoners, with 20 others forced to surrender. Thirty seven weapons, 18 tonnes of ammunition, and a walkie-talkie were seized.

During an operation launched on 5 March in the Ta Hek area, government forces killed nine intruders and seized five weapons and 16 tonnes of ammunition.

On 1 and 2 [words indistinct], 286th Division killed 25 enemy soldiers and seized three mortars, three weapons, and a quantity of other war materiel.

## Battle Successes in Week Ending 7 Mar Reported

*BK1703045691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0417 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 17—In the week to March 7, the Khmer coalition forces continued attacking government military bases and residential quarters in the provinces of Kompong Thom, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, said military sources.

In the meantime, the sources further said, the government forces made 11 counter-attacks, putting 128 enemy men out of action, including 55 killed, 38 wounded, and 14 captured. Twenty other enemy sodiers reported themselves to the local authorities.

The government troops also collected 37 guns of various calibers, 18 tons of ammunition, one walkie-talkie, and a quantity of other war means, the sources added.

## 300 'Fresh' Vietnamese Troops Sent 12 Mar

*BK1903014891 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] On 12 March, the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators sent 300 fresh troops from Vietnam through a secret trail via O Tang to Lomphat. These troops were deployed at Phnum Yat east of Ta Lup in Chip Commune, Lomphat District, Ratanakiri Province.

This clearly shows that the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors do not want to settle the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia through a comprehensive political solution in line with the document of the five UN Security Council permanent members.

In the current 13th dry season, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemies have continued sending troops, weapons, ammunition, tanks, and artillery pieces to Cambodia in order to further occupy, control, and annex Cambodia to their Indochinese Federation.

### Resistance Kills 11, Destroys Tank 11 Mar

*BK1603022291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] On 11 March, the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets marshalled 600 troops with five tanks from Phnum Srok District on north Sisophon Battlefield in a bid to confront us at Ta Vong and Svay Khmau Villages. They were ambushed, routed, and forced to beat a hasty retreat behind their lines, however. We killed 11 enemy soldiers and wounded 23 others, and we destroyed one T-54 tank, five AK's, a B-40 rocket launcher, a B-41 rocket launcher, and some war materiel.

## Indonesia

### Irian Jaya Separatist Leader 'Jailed for Life'

*BK1903063891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0508 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Jakarta, March 19 (AFP)—The leader of a movement which has been fighting for a separate state in the eastern Indonesian province of Irian Jaya has been jailed for life, the official ANTARA NEWS AGENCY said Tuesday.

A court in Jayapura, the capital of Irian Jaya, found Free Papua Organisation (OPM) leader Melkianus Salossa guilty Monday of leading a raid on a settlement area in the province which left 14 people dead and of killing a member of the armed forces in 1988, ANTARA said.

Mr. Salossa, 45, was also found guilty of proclaiming a West Papua State in Irian Jaya and of abducting three people to neighbouring Papua New Guinea. Mr. Salossa has one week in which to appeal.

The OPM leader was arrested in Papua New Guinea and later jailed for illegal possession of weapons before he was extradited to Indonesia in July. The OPM has been fighting for a separate state in predominantly Melanesian populated Irian Jaya since the former Dutch colony of Western New Guinea became Indonesian territory in 1964.

Jakarta has resettled hundreds of thousands of Indonesians from Java and Bali in the province, Indonesia's largest but least densely populated, prompting resentment from indigenous people and criticism from human rights organisations here and abroad.

### Former PKI Officials Want To Return After Exile

*BK1903053291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0513 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Jakarta, March 19 (AFP)—Many former officials of the outlawed Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI) want to return home after almost 25 years of exile, the leading KOMPAS DAILY said Tuesday.

They were studying abroad at the time of the abortive PKI-backed coup attempt in 1965, the coordinating minister for security and political affairs, Sudomo, was quoted as saying.

The exiles have contacted Indonesian embassies in their new countries to express their desire to return, Mr. Sudomo said, adding that the government had kept records of the communist movement. But he did not say how many of the so-called PKI cadres were in the records.

The PKI, which claimed more than 20 million members and sympathizers in the 1960s, was one of Indonesia's largest political parties.

It was outlawed in 1966 for its role in the 1965 coup attempt, which was crushed by the army under the command of Major General Suharto, who became president in 1968.

After a trip to China in November, Mr. Suharto said former PKI members would be allowed to return to Indonesia but would have to account in the courts for their actions. The subject of former PKI members was raised during his talks with leaders in China, with which Indonesia resumed diplomatic ties in August after a 23-year freeze connected with the coup attempt.

Indonesian press reports said most former PKI members who settled in China in the 1960s moved to Europe during the cultural revolution.

## Philippines

### Manglapus Says Imelda Marcos 'May' Get Passport

*HK1903051391 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus stressed that former first lady Mrs Imelda Marcos will fail to get a passport should she apply at the Philippine Consulate in New York. He alerted the New York consulate not to issue travel documents to Mrs Marcos. Manglapus clarified that the Department of Foreign Affairs' [DFA] refusal of the former first lady's request is simply in compliance with Malacanang's order. If there is a change of directive, they may issue her a passport. According to DFA sources, Secretary Manglapus may give the order to issue her a passport if the Cabinet Cluster E—on National Security and Political Affairs—will recommend it. But this cabinet group, under Justice

Secretary Franklin Drilon, has not yet decided on the matter of Mrs Marcos' return.

In a related report, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon clarified that former first lady Mrs Imelda Marcos is qualified to run for president in the 1992 polls. According to him, she has not yet been proven guilty of the cases which the Philippine Government plans to file against her. But he strongly denied reports that the current administration will allow Mrs Marcos to return in April. Drilon said the Cabinet Cluster on Security and Political Affairs will discuss tomorrow the return of the Marcos family to face charges of ill-gotten wealth.

## Aquino Statement on U.S. Bases Corrected

*HK1803123291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Manila, March 18 (AFP)—The Philippine Presidential Palace took the unusual step Monday of correcting a statement attributed to President Corazon Aquino on the sensitive issue of ratification of a possible treaty extending the stay of U.S. bases in the country.

A final round of negotiations between Washington and Manila on the fate of U.S. bases in this country after their lease expires in September is expected to begin here by early April.

The Senate must ratify any treaty and the corrected statement read: "If a treaty will be signed, then we will be informing the people of the contents of the treaty so that they in turn can express their sentiments to the Senate."

The palace asked reporters to disregard the previous statement. It read: "While it is the Senate that will ratify or reject a treaty, the Senate action should reflect the wishes of the people. Therefore, it is hoped that the Senate will reflect the sentiments of the people to whom we will be presenting the treaty for ratification. We will be engaging in a vigorous information campaign with regards to the treaty."

More than half of the country's 23 senators have pledged to vote against a new seven-year treaty, but politicians say pressure from Mrs. Aquino could swing some senators to her side.

The Philippine Constitution requires that two-thirds of the Senate must ratify any treaty.

## Aquino Wants To Talk to People About U.S. Bases

*HK1903033191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0230 GMT 19 Mar 91*

["Malacanang Information Service" by Tanny Rodriguez; in English]

[Text] President Aquino reiterated her desire for a series of consultations and discussions with the people on the issue pertaining to the retention of the U.S. military facilities in the country. In her press statement the president said: While it is the Senate that will ratify or reject a treaty, the Senate action should reflect the wishes of the people. The president earlier said she favors the said consultation even before the treaty would be ratified by the Senate. She said it is hoped that the Senate will reflect the sentiments of the people to whom the treaty will be presented for ratification. The chief executive said if a treaty will be signed then the government will be informing the people of the contents of the treaty so that they, in turn, can express their sentiments to the Senate.

Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos explained further why consultations are necessary before a treaty is clarified before the members of the media.

[Begin recording] [Orbos] [Words indistinct] is the consultation because referendum has a specific legal meaning. [Words indistinct] the president would like to encourage the public to participate in the discussion of issues like this.

[Reporter's question indistinct]

[Orbos] Well, the desire really is to get the sentiment of the people after an agreement has been entered into.

[Reporter's question indistinct]

[Orbos] Yes, that's clear, it could happen before it is submitted to the Senate for proper action. And this could be the initiative of the private sector or concerned citizens.

[Reporter] Not by the government?

[Orbos] Also it could be from the government but with the proper empowerments from Congress, or administratively we could go into these consultations to the DILG [Department of Interior and Local Government].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] members of the private sector can participate?

[Orbos] Well, yes, they would like to express their sentiment in this issue and this is the reason why I suppose there is a need to get the instruction from above.

[Reporter] What about [words indistinct]?

[Orbos] It's the process, I guess, that's available to all [words indistinct]. And all the president is saying is that while we must recognize the fact [words indistinct]. [end recording]

## Senate Bloc Warns Aquino on Plan

*HK1903055691 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 19 Mar pp 1, 2*

[By Dionisio Tubianosa, Jose H. Macaspac III, and Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] Leaders of the anti-bases bloc in the Senate yesterday warned President Aquino she would be violating the Constitution if she made good her announced plan to submit to the people in the guise of "consultations" the text of a new treaty on the bases before it is submitted to the Senate.

Senate President Jovito Salonga and Sen. Wigberto Tanada, acknowledged leaders of the bloc, made the same point after Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos read a statement for Mrs. Aquino saying she would be "informing the people of the contents of a new treaty (on the military bases) so that they in turn can express their senitments to the Senate."

The Constitution provides that a new agreement, now entering its sixth round of talks, must be concurred in by at least two-thirds of the 23-member Senate and, if Congress so requires, ratified by the majority of the votes cast by the people in a referendum held for that purpose.

This is interpreted to mean that a new treaty must first be submited to the Senate before it is, if at all, submitted to the people for a direct vote.

A culpable violation of the Constitution by the President constitutes the first ground for impeachment. None of the senators have threatened impeachment, but observers see this as the logical consequence of any presidential offense against the Constitution.

Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. has earlier moved for a so-called "non-binding referendum," expected to cost P [Philippine peso]300 million, prior to submitting the treaty to the Senate, after 14 senators said they would block the new treaty that's still being negotiated.

The administration apparently believes that a new treaty has enough popular support to reverse any opposition to it in the Senate. But although the proposals for "consultations" and a "non-binding referendum" are both based on the principle of consulting the people on vital national issues, critics point out that this is the only issue where the administration has chosen to consult the people. It has not done so on other equally vital issues, such as the Letter of Intent to the IMF concerning the foreign debt.

U.S. Special Negotiator Richard Armitage is scheduled to arrive in Manila the first week of April for the sixth round of talks. Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus downplayed reported U.S. optimism on the early conclusion of an agreement saying vital issues, specially those on compensation and duration, still remain to be resolved.

In a related development, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao disclosed that he is scheduled to go to Washington within the week to present a "Philippine formula" as it applies specifically on three vital issues: Lightening the burden of servicing the foreign debt; providing the resources that can support budget operations to lessen borrowings that should help lower domestic interest rates; and building the country's international reserves.

Mrs. Aquino said the Senate action on the expected RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases treaty "should reflect the wishes of the people" and stressed that the government will launch an intensive national campaign with regards to the treaty.

Mrs. Aquino, in a statement issued to Palace reporters, said that "while it is the Senate that will ratify or reject a treaty, the Senate action should reflect the wishes of the people."

"Therefore, it is hoped that the Senate will reflect the sentiments of the people to whom we will be representing the treaty for ratification."

Tanada also expressed fears that the government would use its vast resources to push a massive pro-bases information campaign designed to eliminate resistance to a new bases agreement between the Philippines and the U.S. Tanada saw the consultation process, which Mrs. Aquino said she would soon initiate, as possibly a cleverly devised ruse that would circumvent the constitutional provision stipulating that a referendum could be held only after the Senate decides to either reject or ratify a new bases treaty.

"Why can't they just stick to the provision of the Constitution on the bases treaty?" Tanada told NEWSDAY after learning that Mrs. Aquino had pledged to consult the people on their views on the American facilities.

Tanada said the supposed consultation could be the alternate plan of the bases supporters in the legislature and the executive departments who want to pave the way for the extension of American military presence in the country. He said these men had to resort to such a process after the President herself realized the Senate's unalterable stand against the bases.

Tanada maintained that there was no need for such a consultation which, he said, could cost the government some P300 million. He added that since the results of the consultation would not be binding anyway, there was no need to have it. He said the legislators had been performing their constituency functions and constantly consulting their constituents on the issue. He said he was opposed to the information campaign that would be conducted by the executive department.

Senate President Salonga stressed that both proposals were useless considering that they were not binding. Salonga maintained that the government would be spending a huge amount of the people's money for something that would not have any force in shaping the fate of the new bases treaty. Salonga also repeated Tanada's point that regular consultations with constituents had already been conducted by the senators and congressmen, adding that this is a regular function that all legislatures perform.

In another development, Senator Victor Ziga claimed during a privilege speech yesterday that juicy contracts to maintain and operate baselands about to be turned over to the Philippine government by the U.S. have been cornered by influential Palace friends.

Ziga, chairman of the Senate public works committee, said that during a committee hearing he held in Baguio City recently, private businessmen revealed that questionable transactions had awarded lucrative deals to influential parties for the operation of some of Camp John Hay facilities.

However, Ziga refused to name names despite the insistence made by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. He added that a congressional probe on the businessmen's charges will determine if any more of the baselands are susceptible to such anomalous deals.

### Aquino Says No Plebiscite on Extension of Bases

*HK1903111791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[By Vic Synchongco]

[Text] The government will not conduct a plebiscite regarding the extension of U.S. military bases in the Philippines. President Aquino stressed before the 15 senators who met with her that the government intends only to undertake a multisectoral consultation on whatever will be agreed upon between the Philippine and U.S. Governments, prior to the treaty's ratification or rejection by the Senate.

Senator Agapito Aquino said that the president would like the Senate to have an idea of what the people think about the extension of the U.S. bases before it is discussed in the upper house.

After the meeting, Malacanang reporters interviewed Senator Joseph Erap Estrada, an anti-bases advocate. Estrada insisted that he will also oppose the conduct of a plebiscite on the U.S. extension issue. When asked about the president's reaction toward his strong opposition to the conduct of a plebiscite, he said that he failed to tell the president this because the chief executive never asked him during their one-and-a-half-hour meeting.

### Manglapus' 'Sales Pitch' on U.S. Bases 'Failed'

*HK1903054291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Mar 91 pp 1, 12*

[Text] The United States can continue using its bases here beyond the seven-year limit the Aquino administration wants imposed on a new bases treaty, if Washington approves the compensation conditions sought by Manila.

This was Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus' sales pitch when he tried to convince U.S. officials to agree to the Philippine demand that a fixed bases compensation amount be included in the treaty being worked out by the two countries. But according to senators Manglapus briefed yesterday on his recent trip to the U.S. the sales pitch failed.

"He (Manglapus) got nothing out of his trip," said Sen. Wigberto Tanada, a staunch antibases advocate and one of eight senators who attended Manglapus' briefing.

Manglapus' sales pitch is not a remote possibility, however, said Sen. Neptali Gonzales, president of the pro-bases Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] who was also present during the briefing.

"The Philippines can give them (Americans) access if we desired. That can be done (even) without stipulation in the treaty. Kung talagang gusto ng future government or future Congress i-extend ang treaty, [if the future government or the future congress wants to extend the treaty] that can be done," said Gonzales. "The whole treaty can be renegotiated by the next government," Gonzales added.

Although the Aquino administration would appear committed to limiting the bases' stay to seven more years after Sept. 16, 1991, the date the Constitution set beyond which no foreign military bases would be allowed here, it has no control over how the next administration would deal with the bases issue.

Most presidential aspirants are for the continued stay of the bases here. Leading them is Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos who favors a 10-year extension of the bases' stay. Vice President Salvador H. Laurel has said he wanted the bases to stay until 1998, the 100th anniversary of RP [Republic of the Philippines]-US relations.

Mrs Miriam Defensor-Santiago, former agrarian reform secretary, has said the country's economy would collapse without the bases. Senate President and Liberal Party presidential nominee Jovito Salonga favored continued U.S. access to the bases on a "commercial basis." Sen. Joseph Estrada said he opposed the continued stay of the bases, but added he would not have to confront whether or not the bases should stay because by that time, the issue would have been resolved.

But the senators who attended Manglapus' briefing said they expected the debate on the compensation issue to rage on.

Tanada said all Manglapus got during his trip to the U.S. was an assurance that the difference between the Philippine and U.S. positions on compensation "was not insurmountable."

Manglapus had tried to seek a $825-million annual compensation package to be made up of $400-million in cash and the rest in "non-budgetary items." Under Manglapus' formula, $200 million of the cash component would be used to service the Philippine foreign debt; $100 million of grants would be used to buy military equipment; $375 million would be in the form of greater access for Philippine products to the U.S. market; and $50 million would be debt condonation.

The U.S. however, insisted on its counter-offer of $360 million a year which would be composed of $200 million in military assistance; $120 million in economic support fund; and $40 million in development assistance.

U.S. authorities also insisted the U.S. could not commit itself to paying fixed annual compensation because it was against U.S. laws to provide "multi-year budgets." Sen. Rene Saguisag said the U.S. authorities being quoted by Manglapus were lying.

"These are the superstitions being imposed upon us," Saguisag said, showing reporters an excerpt from a TIME magazine article in which US Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and U.S. Armed Forces Chief Colin Powell were reported to have requested the U.S. Congress for a multi-year defense budget.

Later yesterday, Manglapus told diplomatic reporters the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] was supporting President Aquino's proposal to submit for public discussions the proposed bases treaty.

"I don't see how we can avoid the public discussing the treaty once it is signed. You cannot pass a law forbidding public discussion of a treaty," Manglapus told diplomatic reporters. Manglapus said public consultations on the bases treaty may immediately take place after its signing and before the Senate concurs with it.

On Saturday, U.S. chief negotiators Richard Armitage said he was hopeful that a treaty that would provide for a 10-year phaseout period may be finished by April 10. But Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus was not as optimistic as Armitage, saying the two sides will still have to thresh out their differences on the unresolved issues of bases duration and compensation.

Both sides have agreed to resume negotiations early next month, hoping this could lead to the signing of the agreement.

## MALAYA on Management of U.S. Military Facilities

*HK1903062691 Quezon City MALAYA in English 19 Mar 91 pp 1, 3*

[By Cris Larano]

[Text] Sen. Victor Ziga (LP) [Liberal Party] yesterday asked the Senate to investigate reports that Malacanang promised to an "influential group" the management of the recreation and restaurant facilities in Camp John Hay which will be turned over to the Philippine control on July 31.

In a privilege speech, Ziga said he had received information that "someone favored and close" to Malacanang will get the contract to manage and operate the restaurants and recreational facilities, including the golf course. However, he declined to identify the "influential group."

Earlier, Sen. Alberto Romulo (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] filed a resolution asking for a probe on the government's capability to manage U.S. military facilities to be transferred to Philippine control. Romulo also charged that certain groups are trying to corner lucrative contracts for the maintenance and management of Camp John Hay.

The government already has control over the Wallace Communications Base in Capas, Tarlac, and the radar facility in San Miguel Naval Communications Statics in Zambales.

## USSR Offers To Train Pilots Under Exchange Plan

*HK1903055391 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 91 pp 1, 24*

[By Louie Perez]

[Text] Ninoy Aquino International Airport—"The Soviet Union is more than willing to train Filipino pilots under an educational exchange program, providing a good opportunity for stronger relations between the Philippines and our country. We are happy to be part of the government's interest in developing the local aviation industry."

These were the words of Victor Pugautchev, chief test pilot of the Sukhoi Design Bureau, as he stressed that his country, "as a specialist in the industry, is very keen in taking part in this project."

Pugautchev, a recipient of the Distinguished Gold Medal Award, developed the famous, "cobra maneuver" in his Sukhoi jet and is the only pilot in the world who can perform it. The death defying maneuver imitates a snake's striking stance. At the 2nd International Aviation and Airport Support show here last Sunday, the "cobra maneuver" was the crowd's favorite because it dramatizes the harmony between man and machine.

The Sukhoi-27 jet is the only aircraft which can demonstate the maneuver Pugautchev said. "The maneuver is merely for show and has not been used in combat, but I suppose it might give us a definite edge in the future," Pugautchev added.

He first performed the "cobra maneuver" at the Paris exhibition in 1989 and has since thrilled spectators in Singapore, England, and the U.S. The "cobra" has become a tradition, he added.

With 21 years of flight experience behind him since his studies at the Aviation Military Institute in the USSR, Pugautchev expressed his willingness to train Filipino pilots as part of an educational exchange program.

Maj. Gen. Gerardo Protacio, Philippine Air Force (PAF) commanding general, who flew the Sukhoi jet in a test flight, said the Philippines welcomes the offer of the Soviet Union. Protacio noted the Soviet jet's self-sufficient characteristic, adding that it is meant for rugged and undeveloped terrain and is very practical to use. He said the jet has very powerful avionics and needs no ground support equipment to maintain it.

The ability to take off from short runways is also a definite adventage, Protacio said. He added that the Soviet Union's presence in the local aviation indsutry is most welcome because it has introduced new options for the country's defense needs.

## Mitra Confident of LDP Presidential Nomination

*HK1903062191 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Mar 91 p 3*

[Text] Speaker Ramon Mitra yesterday said he was confident of winning the nomination of the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] as its standard bearer in the 1992 presidential polls and that he would also get the support of President Aquino in his election bid.

Reacting to Mrs Aquino's statement last week that she has already decided on who to endorse as her successor, Mitra said: "I have a feeling that the one the President will choose will be the (same) candidate (to be) chosen by the party (LDP)."

Mitra made the statement in a press conference called by the LDP leadership to deny reports of a rift between him and party secretary-general Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"I guess many people don't know that our relationship goes back longer than politics or mere association. We might not agree on some issues pero malalim ang samaban namin," [but our relationship is deep] Cojuangco said. He said that the LDP has been consolidating its machinery to prepare for the polls. Cojuangco announced that the party will hold its national council meeting on May 25, to be attended by 550 leaders from all over the country, to choose its presidential bets.

The LDP leadership, however, clarified that Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has not yet categorically announced his intention to join the LDP but has only made "some indications" to Cojuangco about it." Cojuangco also said "talks" were being held between Ramos and the LDP but declined to reveal if Ramos has made any conditions.

Cojuangco also sought to downplay reports that a group within the LDP has been working for Ramos to join the LDP to challenge Mitra for the party's presidential nomination. He insisted that the ruling party is "not recruiting" new members. "Those who wish to join, the doors are open," he said.

Along with Ramos, other Cabinet members bruited about as intending to join the LDP were Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., Labor Secretary Ruben Torres, Press Secretary Tomas Gomez and Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague.

Cojuangco said the membership of the Cabinet secretries, if approved, will be announced following a regional party meeting on April 27.

## Editorial Views 'Fluid' Political Alignments

*HK1803053891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Mar 91 p 4*

[Editorial: "1992 Portents"]

[Text] The worst nightmare of the administration of President Aquino is about to become a reality. The opposition may yet come out with a single slate and crush the badly fragmented administration in the 1992 elections.

The elders of the Nacionalista Party [NP] are trying to team up Vice President Salvador Laurel with Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. The NP remains a shadow of its former self, largely untested in the elections held during the Aquino administration. It has hardly rehabilitated the grassroots organization that enabled it to capture the presidency in 1953, 1957 and 1965 and to succeed in getting reelected an incumbent in 1969, a first in the country's history. It may not even strike a chord of recognition among today's young voters. Also going against the party is the perception that as currently constituted, it is no more than an extension of the political organization of the Laurels.

But no one can deny that the venerable party can still draw strength from old but loyal members out there in the countryside. Its weaknesses are likely to be offset if it strikes an alliance with Cojuangco's Partido Pilipino, a youthful party with a strong middle class orientation and a growing network in both the urban and rural areas.

The NP elders' game plan is to field Laurel as the opposition standard-bearer with Cojuangco as his runningmate. But the team-up can easily go the other way around. Cojuangco is the only opposition leader with the acknowledged capability of raiding the ranks of the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats]. Among the members of the House, for example, estimates of the number of those who will support a Cojuangco bid for the presidency range from a low of 50 to a high of 90. This network of tested local leaders is an asset that Cojuangco can parlay into the senior position in a possible partnership with the relatively disorganized Laurel-led Nacionalistas.

However the final alignment turns out, what is clear is that the opposition has very good chances of fielding a unified slate. The chances are furthered bolstered by reports that Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the other possible presidential candidate, is willing to give way and settle for the Senate presidency instead.

In contrast, the administration has a clutch of confirmed presidential aspirants, with not one of them about to give way to any other. Senate President Jovito Salonga is bent on making a try, probably his last chance, for the highest office in the land. Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, with his control of the LDP, is not about to throw away his patiently crafted coalition of Aquino supporters and former Marcos supporters behind another candidate. Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos and Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos are waiting for Mrs. Aquino's endorsement; whoever ends up the anointed will definitely not disappoint the another by settling for vice president.

The political alignments are admittedly fluid at this point. There's still 13 months to go before the May 1992 elections. But the administration had better try to put up a united front, too. The elections would be boring if the opposition stood united and its rival parties cancelled each other out by sharing among the two or three of them the already fast dwindling pro-Aquino votes.

The people badly need a respite from the crushing burden of earning a living in these economically difficult times. They deserve better than a frightfully humdrum election. The administration can't provide them bread. Now it can't even put up a decently exciting circus. That's carrying incompetence to absurd proportions.

## Air Force, Aviation Industry 'Weakest' in Asia

*HK1803054491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 18 Mar 91 pp 1, 2*

[By Efren Dayauon]

[Text] Years of neglect and apathy, compounded by inconsistent policies towards the aviation industry, made the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and the local aviation industry the weakest and the most ill-equipped in Asia, Congressman Vicente Rivera Jr. (LP, [Liberal Party] Bulacan) vice-chairman of the House committee on national defense, said during a recent symposium on Air Power.

Despite its proud record of being at the forefront of aviation in Asia during the 1950s, the Philippines has since stagnated and even downgraded itself to No. 6 in military airpower and near the bottom end in the civilian category.

"Disadvantaged by lack of government incentives and support, the aviation industry has been hobbled by the fragmented supervision and prevalent inattention of regulatory agencies of the government which had resulted to the deterioration of the country's capability in the field of aviation," Rivera said.

Rivera made the remarks at a symposium on "The Role of Air Power as an Indispensable Component of National Development and Security."

Himself a former pilot and past director of civil aviation, Rivera said the Philippines attained the height of aviation development in the 1950s, when the country had more than 600 aircraft of various types and models and the largest civil air fleet in the region with the market value of $1.5 billion.

Even the PAF, according to Rivera, had in its arsenal a substantial inventory of warplanes, jetfighters, helicopters, and troop carriers some 30 years ago. He said the Philippines then had earned the proud record of being the first country in Asia to be involved in aviation, the first to establish an airline, and the first to possess a sizable fleet of civilian aircraft.

The intervening years, Rivera said, had eroded that lead, adding, "we have long been overtaken by our neighbors, notably Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in many critical aspects of aviation development."

Citing examples, Rivera pointed out that the Philippines now imported no less than $40 million worth of aircraft spare parts and components because "we failed to develop our capability to manufacture them, notwithstanding the fact that the country established the Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation (PADC)."

Instead of providing support to the general aviation sector, Rivera said that the Philippine government made the reverse by taxing it by as much as 2000 percent.

"This deplorable attitude of our government people," according to River, "is entirely opposite to that of other countries which nurture, support, and provide handsome incentives to their aviation industries."

If the Philippines was to make air power an effective component of national development, Rivera stressed that the government must have the political will and the program to modernize the country's airports, airways, and commnications system and make them at par with international standards.

Rivera proposed the setting up of an effective and efficient regulatory body, manned by experts and professionals, which will integrate and oversee compliance with economic, technical, educational, and training standards as well as promote research and development.

Rivera also called for the consolidation of the country's thousands of Filipino aviation technicians for local and foreign use which, he said, "we have barely utilized." And because the goverment failed to provide the PAF with more funds for its development program, "we now have the sad result of having our air force outclassed by its counterparts in the region," Rivera said.

"It is not unexpected that the PAF was unable to react properly to a neighboring country's air raid on one of the Sibutu group of islands," Rivera said.

"We were also not able to react when Filipino fishermen operating along our traditional fishing grounds in the south were captured and imprisoned by the naval and air forces of a neighboring country on charges that they had illegally crossed the border," Rivera added.

Rivera said that it was no surprise that "we were not able to react because our air force capability rests on just three F-5s jetfighters and four T-33s." He said this inventory was a far cry from the air force of the 50s and 60s, when the PAF had substantial numbers of F-86 and many other aircrafts including transporters, trainers and helicopters.

"There is only one solution to the situation," Rivera emphasized, "and, that is, by chanelling more funds to support the PAF development program."

### Captured NDF Leader Reveals Haribon Infiltration

*HK1803054591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 91 p 8*

[By Amor Lopez]

[Text] Puerto Princesa City—A captured political officer of the National Democratic Front (NDF) said the communist movement has "successfully infiltrated" Haribon Foundation, an environmentalist group here to further their cause and gain mass support.

The revelation of Efren Rodrigo alias Ka [Comrade] Pepe gave credence to documents earlier seized by Western Command Chief Brig. Gen. Braulio Balbas and his men during a raid in a rebel safehouse here a month ago.

About 66 persons with reported links to the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] were arrested during the raid, 14 of whom were discovered to be members and community organizers of Haribon Foundation in Palawan.

The lawmen recovered eight high-powered firearms in the raid. However, the couple who allegedly owned the safehouse eluded arrest.

Rodrigo told AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Gen. Rodolfo G. Biazon during a command briefing here that prior to his arrest in December, he was a political officer of the NDF working closely with the Southern Luzon Regional Party Committee as technical staff who was tasked to organize the Bagong Nabal ng Bayan (BAN-ABA) [New People's Army Navy Unit] in the areas of Panay, Mindoro and Palawan. He added that the infiltration on Haribon was planned under Oplan Metro Bank where members would use the illegal logging issues in Palawan and the controversial issue on the ancestral lands of the Tagbanuas as a means to gain mass support.

### Residents Complain to CHR Over Military Bombings

*HK1903061891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 19 Mar 91 p 3*

[By Cris Larano]

[Text] Residents of six barangays in Conner town in Kalinga Apayao and Rizal town in Cagayan yesterday claimed the military have been bombing their community since January, causing the death of at least five, including a pregnant woman and her child.

The residents, who met with Senators Wigberto Tanada (Ind.) [Independent] and Rene Saguisag (LP) [Liberal Party], said Tora-tora warplanes and helicopter gunships have been pounding their community with machinegun and rocket fire. In some occasions, they added, artillery guns have been used to shell their barangays.

The residents said they have informed the Commission on Human Rights [CHR] of the incident and was told by CHR chairman Mary Concepcion Bautista that an inter-agency committee will be formed to investigate the matter. The CHR is also investigating the reported military food blockade in Marag Valley in Kalinga, which has caused the death of 74 children and the dislocation of scores of families.

The affected baranays were Bamban, Daga and Pigin of Conner and Masi, San Juan Sur and Norte of Zinundungan Valley in Rizal.

The residents of Conner said Mila Andres, 13, died because of shock while a pregnant woman and her child died after premature delivery due to fear of the bombing that started Jan. 24. They added that on the afternoon of Jan. 25, military helicopters dropped leaflets in the area telling civilians to "transfer to safer places." They also claimed military operatives ransacked their three cooperatives, houses and schools.

Residents of Rizal said military operations, which started March 6, has claimed the life of two, including a two-year-old girl. The victims who died from shrapnel injuries were Feliciano Ligas, 65, and Loida Ligas, 2.

The casualties include Emma Ligas, 20, mother of Loida; her (Ligas') five-month-old child, and Martin Reyes, 17. The mother and child, who between them has sustained nine wounds, are in serious condition and now confined at the Cagayan Valley Regional Hospital.

Conner residents said operations have temporarily ceased on Feb. 23, allowing them to return home. They said, however, that many of their belongings have been stolen.

### 18 Killed in Insurgency-Related Incidents

*HK1803113091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Eighteen people died and seven were hurt in clashes between government troops and rebel groups in different parts of the country. Killed were 14 soldiers and policemen, and four NPA [New People's Army] rebels.

In the bloodiest incident, communist rebels ambushed an army patrol in the province of Antique, causing the deaths of eight soldiers, one of whom was a military officer.

In Camarines Norte, four policemen died and three were hurt when rebel guerillas bombed a group of policemen.

### Paper Reports 28 Killed in Clashes With Rebels

*HK1903060691 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Mar 91 p 3*

[Text] At least 28 people have been killed in a series of clashes between communist guerrillas and government forces over the past three days, but the military has played down the upsurge of fighting.

Police and military reports yesterday said 15 soldiers and policemen and 13 communist rebels had been killed and seven wounded in gunbattles across the country in the past 72 hours. In the bloodiest incident, rebels ambushed an army patrol at the weekend in Antique, killing eight soldiers, one of them an officer.

A police sergeant was killed and four policemen injured in a gunbattle with a group of New People's Army [NPA] guerrillas yesterday afternoon in Tarlac, police said. Seven rebels were killed in the gunbattle, police said. Other clashes were reported in Mindanao, Kalinga-Apayao and Samar.

The NPA has launched a series of attacks against government forces over the past two months in an apparent attempt to prove that the outlawed rebel movement is still a potent force. But army chief Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia said in a magazine interview published on Monday that the 22-year-old war against the NPA was being won. He said the communist guerrillas had lost much of their power and were being driven out of many strongholds.

"Here's the proof: (they) had something like 73 guerrilla fronts all over the country at the start of 1988, now they are down to 49 guerrilla fronts," he said in an interview with the 'Philippine Graphic'.

Defense officials say communism in the Philippines is dying and recent rebel attacks are intended to create the impression that the NPA, fighting for two decades to establish a Marxist state, is still a major threat to national security.

"All in all, the NPAs are no longer so dense in the south, they have lost the power and capability they had in 1985-87 in Mindanao," Abadia said.

## Thailand

### More on Solomon Talks With Ministers in Bangkok

*BK1903014191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 91 p 6*

[Text] Thailand has reassured the United States of its support for a settlement of the Cambodian conflict under the framework of the United Nations Security Council and the Paris International Conference, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday.

Mr Asa was speaking after Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Richard Solomon met Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and senior Thai officials including the Foreign Minister himself and PM's Office Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi. They discussed the Cambodian conflict and other bilateral issues during the 30-minute talk.

Mr Solomon was in Bangkok, where he reportedly held talks with Cambodian resistance leaders, following visits to China and Indonesia.

Mr Asa said the two countries agreed that a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian problem was their common goal and that it had to be achieved through the Supreme National Council (SNC) and the Paris Conference committee. He said Thailand hoped that the second SNC meeting to be held in Jakarta in April would produce constructive dialogue in which agreement on solutions to the problem could be reached.

Asked what role Thailand would assume in peace-seeking efforts, he said it wanted to see peace brought to the wartorn country quickly because the conflict had been a major obstacle to the region's progress. He insisted that the peace process must be done under the UN Security Council's framework and under the guidance of the co-chairmen of the Paris Conference. Thailand, he said, will encourage talks between the four Cambodian factions but will definitely not play a role which breaches the framework.

On the possibility that the country will play a mediatory role in getting the four factions together, Mr Asa said the country would be willing to let the Cambodians hold talks here but they would have to agree among themselves before making such a request. "We will not be the party that takes such an initiative," he added.

Speaking separately to reporters following the meeting, Mr Solomon said the US and Thailand shared common perspectives on peace-keeping efforts on Cambodia. He said they would try to accelerate efforts to bring about a conclusion of a Cambodian solution based on the UN plan and the Paris conference. On the role of the US in resolving the Cambodian conflict, he said the US had viewed the Paris Conference co-chairmen as the focal point of efforts to bridge differences among the four factions.

Mr Solomon said that when he returned to the United States, he would communicate with France and Indonesia, the Paris Conference cochairmen, and his counterparts in the Perm Five on what the US thought should bring the problem to an early conclusion. Asked what he had discussed with the Khmer People's National Liberation Front he had reportedly met, Mr Solomon said that the US had been the supporter of the non-communist resistance for many years and wanted to seek their views on how the problem should be resolved. Mr Solomon said he also informed the leaders of the basis for the US support to be continued.

Mr Asa said the talks also touched on cooperation between the two countries on suppression of drug trafficking and the draft narcotics bill, which had not yet passed into law. He said the US understood that Thailand had given full cooperation to the US on the matter and also understood what had caused delay in the passage of the narcotics bill.

"That (we) have to take serious action on (drugs) is in Thailand's interests, not America's interests, as has been well understood by (the U.S.)", he said. He said drastic measures and suppression must be applied to drug traffickers for the sake of Thailand's reputation in the world community. Thailand had long been said to be the centre of drug trafficking.

As for charges of involvement in drug trafficking by senior Thai government officials and senior military officers, the Foeign Minister said he had made it clear to the US that any charges of that kind must be substantiated with evidence.

Thailand thanked Mr Solomon for the US decision to scrap its travel warning to its citizens planning to visit this country. This would increase the number of US tourists to Thailand, he said.

Mr Asa said the US was also urged to encourage its senior government officials and bankers to attend the World Bank IMF annual conference to be held in Bangkok in October.

## Foreign Minister on Trade Ties With U.S.

*BK1903095991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin by unidentified reporters; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Asa, in progress] ... we must consider where our interests lie concerning medical patents, trade marks, and so forth. We will have to review the issue of where our interests lie.

[Reporter] A U.S. pharmaceutical association reportedly submitted a petition to Carla Hills. How do you plan to handle the issue?

[Asa] We will study it if we can review the matter.

[Reporter] Does the United States have to inform us about the petition?

[Asa] It is not necessary because the issue is already part of our consideration process. We will have to make a decision about what to do.

[Reporter] As far as our policy is concerned, how far along have we gone on this issue?

[Asa] There has been no consideration on this issue.

[Reporter] Do you think we will be removed from the U.S. Priority Watch List in April?

[Asa] The U.S. market accounts for 20 percent of our exports. It is a very important market for Thailand. Therefore, any action that we take should not be regarded as appeasement of the United States; it is aimed at benefiting our national interests. Obstructions must be eliminated for the sake of interests that we would gain, because exports are very important to our country.

[Reporter] Do you think Thailand will be removed from the list in April?

[Asa] I don't know; we will have to wait and see.

[Reporter] Do you think that we have been overly appeasing to the United States?

[Asa] It is not a matter of appeasement; we are not appeasing anyone. Our national interests are the most important principle. You should not think that we must please our great ally, or whatever. We will be a friend of any country that benefits our national interest, but we will not become an enemy to any country. We will be a friend of all countries. This is our main principle.

## Envoy on Developments in Relations With U.S.

*BK1703025991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 91 p B5*

[Interview with Thai Ambassador to the U.S. Witthaya Wetchachiwa by unidentified correspondent from THE NATION on recent developments in Thai-U.S. relations; date, place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Thai-US relations seem to have reached a very critical point. Could you please comment on recent developments?

[Witthaya] I must say that time has helped us understand our economic relations better. You may remember four years ago when the dispute on copyright infringement erupted, the general feeling was that Thailand was being bullied by a superpower.

At the height of the Thai-US trade rift, the situation was so critical that the Prem Administration was said to have collapsed because of its attempt to amend the law.

But November 1989, when former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan was initially scheduled to visit the US, was a watershed. A year and a half has passed, and it seems that we have become less politically and emotionally entangled in bilateral trade talks.

Back then, not only was Thailand new to this type of problem, but also the Americans. It's the first time that the US felt that its open trade policy was taken advantage of. The passage of the US Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 signified this angry feeling.

We have turned the corner. But it doesn't mean that all the problems are resolved. Two days ago, Thai and American officials were holding talks in Santa Monica on the enforcement of the copyright law in Thailand and the extension of patent protection to include pharmaceuticals.

In short, bilateral trade conflicts were heightening in the 1980s.

[Correspondent] How does multilateral channels like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) assist Thailand in such cases?

[Witthaya] The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks has defused tension between the two countries to a certain extent.

Bilateralism as such may deepen the rift instead of mending it. The Thai-US dispute on cigarettes offers an example as to how multilateralism can help. At least, it makes bilateral negotiations look less like a confrontation.

If the cigarette issue was not solved through GATT, I don't think it could have been resolved through any other means as acceptable as this. We have tried to rely more on international bodies to resolve bilateral trade disputes. We tend to go to the Textile Surveillance Body (TSB) when it comes to conflicts on textiles so as to avoid being viewed as giving concessions to the US because of Washington's pressure.

The GATT panel, while recognizing that to close the market completely to imports is not the best way to protect public health, acknowledged that Thailand's argument that cigarettes were not a trade issue had some weight. As a result, we can continue to ban all forms of advertising and point-of-sales promotion.

It's a sort of compromise. The US does not always win and we are not always a loser. The multilateral track is a diplomatic solution.

[Correspondent] As the review by the US State Department and the USTR [U.S. Trade Representative] is drawing near, how do you assess progress Thailand has made in various areas?

[Witthaya] By the end of April, the US Government will have to review the status of every trading partner, not just Thailand. Sometimes, it seemed that the US singled out Thailand for investigation, which is not true.

When the trade act came into force, the law demanded that the Administrator identify the "culprits" in regards to inadequate and ineffective protection of intellectual property rights, but the USTR and the US Government did not point their finger to any particular country targetted for immediate investigation and retaliation.

They only named some countries whose intellectual property protection is not satisfactory in US eyes and which were put on the "priority watchlist".

It is an open secret in Washington that to follow the law literally may have some adverse effect on diplomatic relations. The priority watchlist is not included in the US trade act at all; it is purely an initiative of USTR officials.

In this review process, some countries like Saudi Arabia were dropped from the list while many new countries were added. By April this year, the USTR will determine whether to continue to include Thailand on the priority watchlist, upgrade its status or exclude it from the list completely.

But this is purely a US Government matter. The review is done annually. It starts with the State Department's trade review of each country. And about one month later, the USTR will made the final decision.

[Correspondent] But the US private sector's influence in this process is very strong.

[Witthaya] Yes. At least two industries have filed petitions against Thailand for its failure to enforce copyright laws and its inadequate patent protection.

The petitions by the private sector have nothing to do with the status review by the State Department and the USTR because it concerns another level of decision-making. But the action taken by private lobby groups will remind the US Government about its problems with Thailand. By March 16, the USTR must decide whether to accept the complaint filed by the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and start an investigation.

Although we have made some improvements in this regard, that doesn't mean that we have to deliver everything on a silver plater so that the Americans will say "finished." The judgement should be based on our intention and sincerity to solve the problem.

[Correspondent] What is the plan for the Thai-US Consultative Committee? And what is the role of the USTR in this committee?

(The committee is chaired by the Thai commerce minister and the US commerce secretary. The first meeting was initially set for March 20-21 in Washington. But because of the military coup on Feb 23, the meeting was postponed.)

[Witthaya] The joint committee will put together government agencies that deal with particular trade issues.

The setting up of the Thai-US Consultative Committee also has some political significance because the announcement was made to coincide with the former premier's visit to the US last year.

Initially, Thailand wanted the proposed body to include the Commerce Department and the USTR, but Washington suggested the panel concentrate on investment promotion.

In our view, if the committee was to deal with only investment, Thailand would be in a position to lose because the US might pick the obstacles surrounding the

Guardian's glass project and Caltex's refinery for talks. They are not in Thailand's interests.

The US Commerce Department, which we mainly deal with, is responsible for trade promotion, import certification and overseas investment, while the USTR focuses its operation on bilateral and international trade negotiations.

It was later agreed upon that if the topics to be discussed involved trade disputes, a representative from the USTR had to be present. It's likely that Sandra Kristoff, USTR assistant, might represent the USTR in the talks. But the forum is not designed for trade negotiations as such.

[Correspondent] Although we have worked closely with the US administration, it seems that Congress is taking on an aggressive role in trade issues. What is our relation with congressmen in general?

[Witthaya] The administration is generally more concerned about international relations than Congress.

You can imagine that a congressman from a district which is a centre for the textile industry will be the first to lobby for trade sanctions against cheap textile and clothing imports. It's the nature of politicians. They have to serve their constituents. Generally speaking, senators are more moderate than congressmen.

Look at the recording industry and intellectual property protection. Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, is an extremely influential personality from California.

Formerly, Congres was not so interested in trade issues. Now there seems to be two US governments, one on Capital Hill (in reference to Congress and the other down the Hill (the administration). Our lobbies with both institutions shows a varying degree of success. Sometimes, the domestic pressure is too strong. Last summer, Congress almost overrode the presidential veto on the very protectionist textile bill.

[Correspondent] Is Thailand facing a real crisis in its relations with the US, given the fact that "fast-track" negotiation authority has not yet been extended, the Uruguay Round is ailing and protectionist pressure in the US is growing?

(The fast-track authority empowers the adminsitration to negotiate trade agreements that Congress must accept or reject but not amend. The extension is as crucial to the US as it is to 107 other countries participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.)

[Witthaya] There are reasons to be more hopeful now that the Uruguay Round wil be concluded successfully than a few months ago when the ministerial meeting in Brussels was suspended.

The European Community has come up with an offer to make specific cuts in farm subsidies. And it's now certain that he US Government will ask Congress to extend the "fast-track" negotiation authority.

Still, there is a conflict between various interest groups in the US. The service and manufacturing sector want the Round to conclude successfully to reform and liberalize world trade, but some radical protectionist groups are moving to bar those efforts.

If the fast track negotiation power is not granted, no one knows what is going to happen. But the general feeling is that industrialized nations will become more inward-looking and regionalism will prevail.

[Correspondent] What do you think will be the US role in the Asia-Pacific region now that it has won the Gulf war?

[Witthaya] It's worth following. Before the war, Japan was persistent with its import ban on rice despite calls from various groups, including the Cairns Group of 14 farm-exporting countries of which Thailand is a member.

The ban on imported rice has social and political weight rather than economic weight. In this case, Japan is already viewed as "culprit."

During the conflict in the Gulf, Japan was viewed as a bad ally. Now that the war has ended, the US may step up its pressure on Tokyo. The fact that Japan does not want to create an impression that it does not want to cooperate with the world community may force it to make some concessions.

It's still unclear to me how the victory will effect the US. It may have more self-confidence and want to create a new world order. The Uruguay Round is a test case for the new world order.

[Correspondent] There was speculation that Thailand's position in trade talks with the US would be undermined by last month's coup.

[Witthaya] I don't think the US will take advantage of the political situation in Thailand to pressure us into giving in to their demands. I believe the initial reaction of the US to the coup was in line with its principal of democracy and human rights. But then they were surprised by what they called the "quicker-than-expected" steps taken by Thailand to restore democracy. I was informed that they even regretted their strong reaction to the coup without giving Thailand a chance to explain first.

The one concern is martial law. The US is afraid that Thai politicians will be tried in a military court. They do not want to see politicans detained. I explained to US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Richard Solomon when I was in Washington that our martial law is not that stringent. We only bar political gatherings. Meanwhile the life of the people goes on as normal.

It was good that the National Peacekeeping Councils' efforts to restore democracy appeared to be sincere. And the faster we pursue a return to democracy as promised, the bettter they will understand us.

I actually think the US may see some positive aspects out of the change in Thai politics. They might think that the decision-making process will be free from political interference and allow Thai leaders to move quickly to tackle trade problems and other issues of concern to the US.

Take for example two pending bills related to control and suppression of drug smuggling which already passed the House during the previous administrations. It will now be easier for the government to ensure quick passage of these bills either through the NPKC or through the National Assembly. For example, there was the quick passage of a controversial Alien Business Act, or Decree 281, when the country was ruled by the National Executive Committee headed by Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon. (The bill was aimed to limit the influence of foreigers in Thai business.)

In this regard, the passage and enforcement of necessary legislation that could improve Thai-US economic relations could be speeded up during this period.

Another problem that could be eliminated during this period are complaints by the US that corruption among Thai authorities and inadequate law enforcement were factors that precluded effective suppression of video and audio-cassette piracy. The NPKC has taken steps to correct the corruption problem and restore tha country's image as "upholding democracy and free trade."

The US Ambassador to Thailand, Daniel O'Donohue, indicated during his meeting with the NPKC that the US will give us a chance to show our willingness to tackle bilateral trade disputes before an April review of Thailand's status on the watchlist.

## Envoy Discusses Japanese Response to Coup

*BK1703024591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 91 p B2*

[By Adisak Limprungphatthanakit]

[Text] Tokyo—The quick normalization of conditions in Thailand following the Feb 23 coup and the formation of a caretaker government of highly-respected figures were factors the Japanese government likely used to justify its decision to continue economic aid to Thailand.

The news that Japan's economic assistance would not be suspended was announced recently by the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo to M.L. Phiraphong Kasemsi, the Thai ambassador to Japan. Phiraphong quoted a Japanese official as saying "(the aid suspension) is only a rumour in the (Japanese) newspapers."

The Japanese press speculated about suspension of aid because it was reportedly concerned about the possibility of human rights violations occurring in Thailand as a result of the coup. But the Thai envoy said Tokyo had expressed satisfaction with political developments in Thailand, which it took as a sign that Thailand would soon return to a democratically elected government.

Japan's wait-and-see attitude immediately following the coup differed greatly from the swift US response. The United States suspended military and economic aid to Thailand one day after the coup while maintaining aid on narcotics suppression. US aid to Thailand last year totalled US$16.4 million: US$2.4 million for military assistance, US$2.5 million for economic aid and US$11.5 million for development aid.

Japan, taken by surprise by the coup, only issued a statement saying it hoped the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) would return the power to the Thai people. The envoy said Japanese senior officials welcomed the release of ex-prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan last week and were also satisfied with the appointment of Anan Panyarachun as Thailand's caretaker prime minister.

Anan's Cabinet, which comprises many internationally-recognized academics and government officials, was also widely accepted by the Japanese, Phiraphong added.

Ever since the coup, the Thai embassy has tried to keep various Japanese government agencies informed that the situation in Thailand was not serious.

He said some influential MPs of the ruling Liberal Democract Party (LDP), who had initially voiced support for a proposal to suspend aid, changed their minds after learning that the political situation in Thailand had quickly improved.

At first these MPs [members of Paliament] strongly opposed the government's decision to adopt a wait-and-see attitude toward Thailand while continuing aid for ongoing development projects.

"Action speaks louder than words," said Phiraphong, explaining it had been difficult for him at times to make some Japanese officials understand the coup's impact within the framework of Thai society. "They assumed the new government would want to change the priority of some of the development projects," said Phiraphong.

Some of the influential LDP members Phiraphong said he met with were MP Matsui Kato, president of the party's Policy Research Council, Muneo Suzuki, the parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs and Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister and now leader of the Takeshita group, the most powerful faction in the LDP.

Phiraphong also said he met with the directors of the Asian Affairs Division and the Official Development Assistance (ODA), agencies responsible for supervising

Japanese aid projects. He said these officials were anxious to know whether the new junta-installed government would adjust its policies in certain key areas such as the Cambodian conflict and Thailand's rural development plans.

But more than politics, the ambassador said Japanese officials were mostly concerned about the coup's impact on the Thai economy. "Grant aid from Japan is still important for Thailand's development," he said.

In 1989, Japan gave Thailand US$488.8 million in economic assistance, accounting for 70 per cent of the total foreign aid Thailand received that year.

Moreover, between 1986 and 1988, when the yen's value appreciated, Japanese investment in Thailand ranked the highest in Southeast Asia.

Japanese aid has been important in helping to finance major infrastructure projects such as the elevated electric train system along Rama IV Road which is being planned by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

In January, the Japanese government also provided funding for two other projects in Thailand. The first grant, worth 710 million yen, will help Chulalongkon University buy electrical engineering machinery. The other, worth 48 million yen, will buy equipment for a number of research projects throughout the country.

Hideo Matsuda, deputy director of the International Affairs Division of the Construction Ministry, also told THE NATION that Japan's aid to Thailand will continue. Matsuda worked in the Japanese embassy in Bangkok as the construction Ministry's attache for three years and returned to Japan last year.

"The implementation of every project which is being funded by Japan will continue. And after Japan starts its new fiscal year in April, Japanese and Thai officials will work out plans for the new projects under the sponsorship of the Japanese government," said Matsuda.

One of these ongoing development projects is the elevated electric train system for which Japan's Construction Ministry has already sent experts to advise Thai officials on its design and construction.

Most ODA [Overseas Development Assistance] aid projects have been carried out by the ministry's experts in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Some Thai-Japanese technical cooperation projects listed by Jica include a review of a plan to expand the operations of a local hospital and the development of an electronic communications network for police stations in Bangkok and surrounding areas. Jica had also sent a team of experts to conduct a feasibility study for a city planning project.

Aside from meeting officials personally, Phiraphong will also sell Thailand's case to the Japanese during two seminars to be held this week in Osaka and Kobe.

The seminars were organized by the Tokyo Office of the Board of Investment and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry to attract more Japanese investments to Thailand.

Since Feb 23, another major point of concern among Japanese officials has been possible changes in Thailand's Cambodia policy.

Japan's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it hoped Thailand would continue to seek a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian conflict. Phiraphong said Tokyo also is determined to help bring peace to Cambodia. "The former Thai premier Chatchai paved the way for Japan to play a leading role in the Cambodia peace process". He quoted the ministry as saying.

Thailand's organization of a meeting of the four warring Cambodian factions in Tokyo last year put Japan in direct contact with the leaders of these factions. Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin has confirmed that Thailand would follow the former government's framework for a policy on Cambodia.

Army Commander in Chief Suchinda Khraphrayun, who is second in charge of the NPKC, also said there would be no changes in Thailand's Cambodia policy. Despite these public assurances, Phiraphong said Japanese officials were preparing a formal request asking Thailand to explain its stand on Cambodia.

The ambassador said Japan was still preparing reconstruction programmes for Cambodia to implement after the four factions reach a political settlement in line with those established by the five permament members of the UN Security Council and the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC).

"Some senior officials of Japan's Foreign Affairs Ministry recently met Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing and officials of the Phnom Penh government", said Phiraphong, adding that the meetings indicated Japan's intention to establiSh peace in Cambodia. But he said he does not know whether Japan would want to host another meeting for the factions.

The daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN last week quoted government sources as saying that Japan plans to propose an international conference in Tokyo on rebuilding Cambodia once peace is established in that country. It also reported that Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will formally propose organizing the conference during his visits to China in April and Vietnam in early May. But no specific dates for such a conference have been set.

"But if such a meeting could lead to the signing of an agreement by the four Khmer factions in line with the framework of the Perm Five, Japan may want to host the meeting again" said Phiraphong.

Meanwhile, a source said Japan recently proposed to the four Cambodian factions that they establish demilitarized zones in an attempt to prevent the recurrence of genocide carried out by the Khmer Rouge when it ruled the country between 1975 and 1979.

## Minister on Grievances Over NPKC Price Policy

*BK1903024591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 91 p A1*

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday his ministry was ready to consider the grievances of producers and suppliers of basic goods who were urged by military leaders last week to cut their prices in line with the recent oil price reduction.

Amaret said that "excessive" efforts to force down prices could backfire on the economy. The minister added that the policy of the caretaker government was to promote liberal trade and let market forces determine the prices of goods.

Amaret made the statement following a report yesterday that leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] last week called a meeting of producers and suppliers of eight basic goods and urged them to reduce prices now that the oil prices had been cut.

The NPKC announced the policy right after its military takeover on Feb 23 and had the permanent secretary of the Commerce Ministry, then serving as commerce minister, call a meeting of the producers and suppliers early this month to convey the policy message. In that meeting some of the producers pledged to cooperate while others asked for leniency.

The eight categories of goods are powered milk, lubricant oils, pesticides, fertilizers, wood pulp, instant coffee, vegetable oil and shampoo, and soap and detergent. The price cutbacks for some of the goods are expected to take effect on April 1.

At the meeting with unidentified NPKC leaders last week, the manufacturers and suppliers, including representatives of three of the country's biggest chemical fertilizer companies, were told that a second round of oil price reductions could be forthcoming. The move came despite the fact that the interim Cabinet now is in charge of economic affairs. Commerce Minister Amaret is already trying to ensure that private businesses do not take advantage of consumers.

But Premier Anan Panyarachun last night downplayed any speculation about the NPKC move. "I don't think it's an interference by the NPKC," he said after participating in a meeting of members of the Federation of Thai Industries to elect its new chairman at the President Hotel last night. Dr Chokchai Aksaranan, senior vice president of the CP group of companies' Planning and Development Office for Petrochemicals, was elected to succeed Anan as FTI chairman last night. Asked whether the NPKC should involve itself in economic affairs, Anan said: "You will find out if you look at the interim Constitution."

A spokesman for the Thai Central Chemcial Co, the biggest fertilizer supplier in the country with more than 30 percent of the market, said the NPKC was informed that prices of imported fertilizer were dependent on world markets. Although the Gulf war has ended, import prices remain high so it is difficult to bring down local prices, he said. He also cited the rising costs of freight and insurance as another difficulty facing the fertilizer trade. Currently, the price of urea, for example, is around Bt [Baht] 5,200 a tonne, up from Bt4,500 because of the effects of the Gulf conflict on oil prices. Sources said private firms were also told by the NPKC last week that the Price Control Committee under the Commerce Ministry would be asked to check their inventories if the firms failed to reduce goods prices.

Last week's NPKC move was the latest in a flurry of popular policies since the military took over last month. Aside from the marginal oil price cut early this month, the NPKC has also increased allowances for low-income taxpayers.

Commerce Minister Amaret said manufacturers and suppliers of goods may file complaints with him if they are adversely affected by the inventory checks. Amaret said authorities would have to ensure that attempts to bring down prices of goods were not excessive so as to discourage busineses. Otherwise, certain goods could disappear from the market, he said. "Our policy is clear. We want to promote free enterprise and allow market forces to dictate prices," he said.

## Suchinda Prepared To Have Assets Investigated

*BK1703013191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Mar 91 p 1*

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khaphrayun, number two on the National Peacekeeping Council, is prepared to have his own assets investigated by the Counter-Corruption Commission (CCC) if the public has any doubts about him.

The general said he and all other members of the NPKC have reported their assets to the CCC which can order an investigation if the public lodges a petition. Gen Suchinda's statement was made during an informal session with journalists on Friday night. He was responding to questions on whether the NPKC-ordered probe into suspected corruption by former politicians was "one-sided". Declaring he has a clear conscience, he said he had submitted a list of his assets to the CCC 15 days before he took over the army's top post.

Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Wirot Saengsanit has reported his assets to the CCC three times since he became a divisional commander. It is standard under CCC regulations for government officials and military officiers who reach certain levels of seniority to report their assets to the CCC. The requirements cover military officers reaching the rank of divisional commander and civil servants at the rank of departmental director general.

Gen Suchinda said the NPKC-appointed graft probe committee headed by Gen Sit Chirarot has received inquiries and petitions for investigation into the wealth of NPKC members. But he said the Sit committee is responsible only for probing former ministers and their aides while any investigation into government officials—including military officers—is within the jurisdiction of the CCC.

Commenting on intermittent public criticism of commissions in weapon purchases, Gen Suchinda said commissions ranging from 10-15 percent paid by arms suppliers to sales agents are standard business practice the world over. He said even arms deals on a government-to-government basis carry some commission.

Regarding corruption in general, Gen Suchinda said it was difficult to find an effective solution. He said petty corruption among policemen was almost inevitable because their basic salaries are low.

Meanwhile, the NPKC-appointed graft probe committee has yet to look into the foreign bank accounts of the 25 former ministers and their close aides, committee chairman Gen Sit said yesterday. But the former Interior Minister said informal discussions had been held between committee members and officials of the Bank of Thailand to explore the possibility of looking into the foreign bank accounts of the ex-ministers and aides. The NPKC froze the assets of 25 former Cabinet ministers and aides, including ex-prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, pending an investigation of how they were obtained.

Gen Sit said he could not specify for sure when the probe would be completed "because the more you dig, the more the information comes out." But he anticipated an initial result of some of the individuals targetted for investigation to be released within 1-2 months.

Gen Sit said he had heard criticism from several people that the investigation was just a "charade." He said: "We are not actors. This is the job we were assigned to accomplish." He added that several people also doubted his ability and determination to undertake the task. Having realised the temporary tenure of his committee and the interim government, Gen Sit said the committee would do the best it could within the time permitted. He disclosed that he had received piles of documents suggesting possible corruption among some former Cabinet ministers in addition to the documents sent directly to the Commission to Counter Corruption. He had to look through all the douments, mark those worth pursuing and then pass them on to his deputies to follow up.

The former Interior Minister said the committee had eased restrictions on the frozen assets of three individuals after having investigated their complaints. He denied the committee sent officials to search the houses of former politicians suspected of wrongfully amassing fortunes. "If there was a search, there should be a warrant," he said. The committee's task was to probe the assets of the 25 former ministers and aides, he said. Bureaucrats who lent support to the ministers and made financial gains would not be subject to the committee's proble, he said.

While awaiting the final outcome of the graft probe, Gen Suchinda said preliminary findings show that former Finance Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha had the largest bank deposits worth 600-700 million baht.

## Paper Views Military Role in National Assembly

*BK1603021791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Mar 91 p A8*

[Editorial: "A Step Backward"]

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] finally did what it said it would avoid: stuffing the National Assembly with a large number of military officers and retired top brass. The list of 292 assembly members announced yesterday included 148 military appointees (eight of them senior retirees), two votes more than a simple majority in the interim legislature.

NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong had said the number of the military appointees would not be "ugly". He seemed to think that a majority control of the interim legislature by the military officers would be "ugly". Thus he chose only 140 officers, who formed only 47.95 per cent of the 292-member assembly. But if those eight retirees are counted as part of the military bloc, then it has a 50.68 per cent majority. Just "beautiful", we guess.

Practically all the senior military officers who are somebody in the armed forces—including Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Air Force Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin—were appointed. Even before the list was announced, these two commanders had cited "national security" reasons to justify a military control of the assembly.

One conspicuous exception is Gen Sunthon himself. Perhaps it was due to some technicality: the supreme commander, in his capacity as the NPKC chairman, was in charge of selecting nominees for the royal appointment to the assembly and had to countersign His Majesty the King's proclamation on it.

Now it goes without saying that the NPKC can handpick assembly members for royal appointments as assembly president and vice presidents. More important still is the formation of a committee (not exceeding 20 in number) in the assembly to draft a new constitution. The NPKC, through its military bloc in the assembly, can dictate the composition of the committee, and in effect dictate the content of the new constitution as well.

This doesn't seem like a step toward returning power of self-government to the people. On the contrary, it looks like a return to the sorry past when those in power could impose their will on the country and its people through legitimation in a legislature under their firm political control.

The NPKC leaders described such rule as a "parliamentary dictatorship" and accused the Chatchai administration, particularly the Chat Thai Party of deposed premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, of trying to impose a "parliamentary dictatorship" to exploit the country, like Marcos had done in the Philippines before he was overthrown in a popular uprising in 1986.

We hope the NPKC realizes that it has come one step closer to repeating the same mistake that the Chatchai administration was accused of making.

However, we understand that the NPKC still intends to help build a new political system that will ensure the smooth and swift progress of Thailand to genuine democracy. In trying to fulfill this self-assigned mission, the NPKC must not unilaterally assume that what it believes in is always right and good for the country.

The NPKC will only hurt its own credibility and alienate thinking people if it tries to impose its own political design on the country through the legislature it controls.

### Debate Over Separation of Powers Continues

*BK1903034391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 91 p A2*

[Text] The interim National Assembly is to convene its first session on March 28 and elect its president on the following day, as debate rages over whether the country's new Constitution should separate the legislative and executive powers.

Dr Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, tipped to become president of the interim assembly, yesterday described its task of drafting the new Constitution as Thailand's "last and only chance" to establish genuine democracy. He said the new Constitution must have effective safeguards against vote-buying "which has put the nation in very serious danger."

The National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), which seized power in a coup last month, initiated the separation of powers proposal which would bar MPs from assuming Cabinet positions unless they give up their parliamentary status. The NPKC says the proposed system would discourage politicians from buying their way into the House of Representatives just to vie for minister posts and reap huge fortunes to make up for their election spending.

While indirectly welcoming the NPKC's proposal, former Parliament president Ukrit cautioned that the idea must not lead to the introduction of prime ministerial elections. "(The new Constitution) must have a Thai content, not a foreign one," Ukrit said. He was referring to rumours that the new Constitution might allow the Thai people to directly choose their national leader, like the US electoral system. "There seems to be confusion caused by misinterpretation," he said. Ukrit, repeating arguments by opponents of prime ministerial elections, said the system was not suitable to Thailand since the country is under a constitution monarchy.

Former Parliament president Wan Chansu, also a member of the interim National Assembly, yesterday echoed Ukrit's view, saying the new Constitution should represent Thailand's political "uniqueness". "It is impossible to impose new political principles without any adaptation. We eat nam prik but they eat cheese. Every country has its own identity," Wan said. He added that the separation of power would, "to a certain extent", reduce vote buying in elections.

Some politicians opposed to the NPKC's proposal have doubted that it would actually eliminate or curb vote-buying. Former army chief Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the recently-formed New Aspiration Party, unexpectedly emerged as the most outstanding critic of the power separation proposal on Sunday. His letter to the NPKC strongly criticized the idea to deny MPs executive power.

The interim National Assembly was set up last week by the NPKC and is charged with adopting the new Constitution to pave the way for a general election due within 14 months.

Critics have voiced concerns that the domination of the provisional assembly by military officers would make the new Constitution undemocratic and was probably a sign that the NPKC might try to cling to power as long as possible.

Supreme Command spokesman Lt Gen Narudon Detpradiyut yesterday denied that the NPKC wants to hang on to power, saying the military council would dissolve itself soon after the next general election is held and a democratic government formed.

### Kaset Warns Workers Against Staging Protests

*BK1903024991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 91 pp 1, 3*

[Text] ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin yesterday warned state enterprise workers against staging protests now deemed illegal under the martial law.

The warning by the deputy chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] came amid reports of sporadic power blackouts and brownouts in Bangkok and Nonthaburi on Sunday and yesterday and a short disruption of telephone links with the South yesterday afternoon.

A union leader at the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) yesterday denied the blackouts and brownouts were labour retaliations against the military's plan to remove state enterprise labour unions from the

Labour Relations Act. Sporadic power blackouts and brownouts were reported in the Ramkhamhaeng, Lat Phrao, Nonthaburi and Thon Buri areas on Sunday. A brief blackout was also reported in Hat Yai District of Songkhla along with a disruption of telephone communications between Bangkok and several provinces in the South yesterday afternoon.

Telephone links with southern areas with the area codes of "073" to "076" were disrupted for more than one hour yesterday. Only Chumphon, Ranong and Surat Thani provinces whose area code is "077" remained unaffected. A "101" operator who handled the long-distance manual switching board said officials had yet to find out what caused the disruption.

Thatsanai Suwansinlapa, deputy leader of the EGAT labour union, said yesterday his union would never resort to using power blackouts for its own benefits. EGAT was also capable of bringing the national electricity reserves to 15 per cent of the total production capacity to guarantee against any power shortage, he said. Mr Thatsanai said the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA), which supplies power for Bangkok, should be able to explain the reported blackouts and brownouts. An MEA official contacted by the BANGKOK POST said the agency was informed by EGAT that the disruptions were caused by "defective high power switching gear" at various sub-stations in Bangkok.

ACM Kaset yesterday warned labourers against staging protests when asked what the NPKC would do if state enterprise workers took labour action against the military move to bar them from setting up labour unions. He said the military move was aimed at preventing problems similar to those frequently caused by state enterprise unions in the past. But he said it all depended on the National Legislative Assembly to decide whether the Labour Relations Act should be amended and how.

Labour representatives in the Assembly could voice their opinions during a debate of proposed amendments to the Act, ACM Kaset said. ACM Kaset said the other NPKC leaders shared his opinion on this matter.

"As you know, only state enterprise union leaders stand to lose their interests if the law is amended. Most state enterprise workers have no problem with their income. Some of them even have higher salaries than I have," ACM Kaset said, citing Thai Airways International employees as an example. He said the Airport Authority of Thailand (AAT), which is also a state enterprise, had never caused any problem and had been operating with full efficiency because it did not have a labour union. ACM Kaset said the NPKC wanted state enterprise workers to stay within proper limits and not to become tools of politicians.

Asked about reports that state enterprise workers, who number about 300,000 at present, might take labour action to fight the NPKC's move, ACM Kaset said: "I don't know about this. I know only that there are now more than 55 million people in the country. How could 300,000 people be compared to the entire population of the country?" ACM Kaset then added that staging protests would violate the martial law now in force.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun declined to comment on the issue yesterday. But he also warned that any protest at this time would be against the martial law.

Bangkok Governor Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang said yesterday if state enterprises were not to be covered by the Labour Relations Act, steps had to be taken by the National Legislative Assembly because the matter required careful consideration. The idea of having a prime minister elected directly by the people, too, should be left to the Assembly to consider, Maj-Gen Chamlong said.

Asked about reports that the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration might be upgraded to a ministry, Maj-Gen Chamlong said the BMA Act of 1985 had to be amended first to effect such change. But he said the current BMA law had proved effective, judging by the big turnout in the Bangkok governor election.

### Labor Leaders To Meet on State Enterprises Issue

*BK1903033191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 91 p A3*

[Text] Labour leaders will meet today to try to consolidate their stand against the military's plan to exclude state enterprises from the labour law and will highlight the issue during an international labour conference to be held in Bangkok this morning.

Thanong Po-an, president of the Labour Congress of Thailand, said that during the conference of ASEAN labour organizations, Thai labour representatives would express fears that the military is seeking to cripple the labour movement. Thanong, who is to attend the conference at the Vientai Hotel, said he would inform representatives from Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Indonesia that the Thai labour movement was on the brink of "being pushed ten years back." Thanong and leaders of other labour councils are to hold a meeting at the Pongli Restaurant at noon to discuss measures to counter the military's move. Watthana Iambamrung, president of the Thai Trade Unions Congress, warned that "the situation would not be as good as" the military expects if it goes ahead with the legal amendment plan.

The labour law gives state enterprise unions rights to hold "extraordinary meetings", a legal form of strike, if endorsed by a substantial number of workers. The extraordinary meetings have been a powerful bargaining tool of state enterprise unionists and exposed them to political interference. While unionists have expressed "regret" at the military's plan, the martial law imposed by armed forces following the Feb 23 coup has kept in check what would otherwise have sparked major labour unrest.

Military leaders yesterday stood firm on their intention to exempt state enterprises from the labour act and have made repeated warnings against "mob" protests by unionists. Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, deputy leader of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), sought to calm anxious labour leaders saying the proposed legal amendment would be handled by the interim National Assembly, not the NPKC. He said the labour movement and the NPKC could jointly consider "the best amendment" to the Labour Relations Act to avoid negative effects to state enterprise employees. "We will make it as smooth as we can," Kaset said. "However, finally it will be up to the National Assembly to decide what changes should be made."

The NPKC's move is a surprise considering the political connections between some labour leaders and certain military figures. Kaset said opposition to the NPKC's idea to give state enterprise employees a new status equal to that of government officials was coming from "people who are afraid of losing their interests".

"We all know what the real situation is at state enterprises," Kaset said.

Unionists, armed with the right to stage work stoppages, have fought aggressively against previous governments' attempts to allow the private sector to take over or partially operate state enterprises known to be losing money or plagued with corruption. "Extraordinary meetings" have also been staged to demand pay hikes and to protest management policies.

Kaset, responding to labour leaders' demands that the NPKC listen to public opinion before making further moves, said: "We know what the public thinks of state enterprises." The air force chief said he did not think a major protest would break out. "They will be disappointed if they do. Political protests are banned for the time being," he said.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, also a deputy NPKC leader, echoed Kaset's remarks. "How can unionists make a move?" he said. "We are still under martial law."

A labour leader said yesterday the NPKC might only be "teasing" the labour movement when it hinted last week that state enterprise unions could be dissolved. "I think the statement by the (NPKC) leaders was meant to be just a joke," said At Si-at, president of the National Council of Thai Labour. But At's hopeful remark came two days after Suchinda vowed to maintain martial law until the military council fulfills its "policy objectives" including the exclusion of state enterprises from the labour law. At admitted that martial law has prevented the labour movement from campaigning against the NPKC's plan. "We can't do anything. We don't have the power to protest as long as martial law is in effect," he said. At is among four labour leaders who were appointed to the interim National Assembly formed last week to draft a new Constitution.

Ekkachai Ekhankamon, adviser to the powerful State Enterprise Relations Group, who was also appointed to the National Assembly, called yesterday for urgent talks between the NPKC and the labour movement. "Both the NPKC and the labour movement have good intentions toward the country. In tackling this problem we must therefore use reason, not power," Ekkachai said.

Labour leaders agreed last week to seek a meeting with NPKC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong on the issue.

## NPA Spokesman on Labor Unions, Chawalit Letter

*BK1803133491 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, was asked by reporters today about state enterprise union leaders seeking a meeting with the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA]. He said he knew nothing about the matter. Asked if the NPA is determined to separate state enterprises from the labor relations law, Narudon said so far no action has been taken on this matter. He said the NPA chairman is free and probably would be willing to meet with labor union leaders. Asked if labor unions could organize gatherings of members, Narudon said gatherings would be unlawful.

Asked if the NPA chairman has received the letter from Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Narudon said the media had already reported on Gen. Chawalit's open letter and the NPA chairman had already read it. Asked if other political parties could present their ideas, Narudon said the NPA is open-minded and ready to hear ideas, because it is good to hear ideas from different groups.

## Paper on NPKC Intention To Scrap Labor Unions

*BK1703023791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Mar 91 p 2*

["Weekend Analysis": "Road To Democracy Not Paved With Unions"]

[Text] In a move that could have far-reaching economic and political implications, the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] leadership intends scrapping the once-influential state-enterprise labour unions and banning state-agency workers from forming new ones.

Exactly how this will be done has yet to be worked out but disclosure of the NPKC decision has already generated dissent from—and sent ripples through—the ranks of state enterprise unionists.

Though most of their labour actions in the past left much to be desired, it is no secret that the estimated 200,000-strong, state-enterprise labour force has always been the most cohesive among the myriad labour groups in the country and used to wield considerable influence and bargaining power. But like other pressure groups, this most potent body of the labour lot has kept a low profile since the February 23 coup which, among other things, has ushered in the imposition of martial law and a ban on political gatherings.

At an informal session with journalists on Friday night, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun, the number two man in the NPKC hierarchy, made it clear that the neutralisation of the state-enterprise labour movement was one of the prime objectives behind the military takeover.

Referring to the series of damaging work stoppages by workers of various state agencies in recent years, Gen Suchinda said those actions had been disruptive and posed a serious obstacle to national economic development. Therefore, the NPKC leadership has decided that the state-enterprise labour sector should be removed from the auspices of the Labour Relations Act, he said. This means that the existing 61 unions (representing all the major public-utilities agencies) will be disbanded and new ones barred from being formed.

As and when this decision is implemented, the state-enterprise workers will no longer be able to engage in labour action, ranging from negotiating for higher pay and better welfare or engaging in other organisational activities. In short, their legal status will be similar to those of civil servants.

Gen Suchinda made no secret that the NPKC is serious in accomplishing this mission. He indicated that military units with the relevant technical expertise are prepared to move in and temporarily operate public utilities in case labour opposition to the move leads to disruption.

Criticising the Kriangsak Chomanan government for including the state-agency unions in the Labour Relations Act to gain political popularity, Gen Suchinda said successive governments in the past had tried but failed to untie the knot. He emphasized that the goal must be achieved this time so that the country could move ahead with privatisation—a policy objective backed by the NPKC.

The general also linked the accomplishment of this goal to the lifting of martial law, another crucial issue that local academics and civil rights groups as well as Western governments have been clamouring for. The army chief maintained that martial law is still required at this stage to cope with any opposition from the labour groups.

Political analysts say the NPKC move could strike a supportive chord among sectors of the local populace, particularly urban-based residents and the business community, who have grown weary at what was commonly perceived to be unruly demands and disruptive actions by state-enterprise workers in the past. There could also be support from foreign investors on similar grounds.

Throughout the two-and-a-half-year tenure of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, state-enterprise unionists put up a series of stiff resistance to the previous administration's privatisation policy. In particular, work stoppages by Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) workers protesting the former regime's privatisation of the new Laem Chabang port damaged the country's international trade and other related economic sectors.

This alongside other protests against the privatisation of other enterprises cast the state-agency workers in a negative light. One common public perception portrayed these workers as trying to perpetuate their own vested interests—taking into account that their salaries and welfare benefits are already substantially higher than their counterparts in the civil service.

Based on these sentiments, the NPKC leadership believes the public will support the move, though it also realizes that this is a highly sensitive issue that could generate unrest. Gen Suchinda said the NPKC had originally wanted to wait a while longer to work out an effective implementation means before announcing the intended changes. But since Air Force chief Kaset Rotchananin made the issue public on Thursday, the NPKC will now have to move quickly.

The caretaker government of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun apparently has not been formally consulted on this. Consultations are expected this coming week on the legal means to achieve the goal. It is unclear at this stage whether Article 27 of the interim constitution which accords sweeping powers to the NPKC and the prime minister will be used.

The potential positive economic impact aside, other analysts are concerned that neutralisation of the state-enterprise unions would be tantamount to removing one of the last potent mass-movement groups from the political landscape. This, they assert, runs counter to the NPKC's professed goals to promote democracy.

Notwithstanding the heavy dose of vested interests, the state-enterprise workers together with their less-influential counterparts in the private sector plus other pressure groups such as academics and students, the print media, various non-governmental organisations and civil rights groups used to be part-and-parcel to the pluralistic plethora of extra-parliamentary forces that helped keep the political system in check. Labour sources voice their concern that this once-dynamic social pluralism would be undermined which, in turn, could contribute to a rise of dictatorial rule.

Whatever the case, state-agency unionists have warned they will not succumb easily to the NPKC policy. While the exact format on how their unions would be dissolved has yet to be finalised and made public, the union leaders are said to have adopted a wait-and-see attitude and to be contemplating appropriate strategies as new developments emerge.

## Vietnam

### 'Manhandling' of Vietnamese in Bulgaria Protested

*BK1803153191 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan today handed a note to Bulgarian Ambassador to Vietnam Geno Toskov [name as received] here, protesting against the manhandling of Vietnamese workers at Crasna Polianna in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, on March 17.

On March 17 afternoon, a large number of armed Bulgarian policemen and soldiers groundlessly broke into Vietnamese workers' residential quarters in Crasna Polianna, Sofia, and beat them up, fatally injuring a number of them and causing many losses to their property.

The note requires the Bulgarian authorities to take urgent and firm measures in order to stop similar acts at once, ensure the life and property safety of the Vietnamese workers, investigate the incident and severely punish the culprits, compensate for the losses caused to Vietnamese workers and immediately release all those illegally arrested.

The deputy minister at the same time urged the Bulgarian side to immediately repartriate the number of Vietnamese workers who are in no condition to work in Bulgaria, in accordance with the agreement between the two governments and at the repeatedly-raised request of the Vietnamese side.

Ambassador Geno Toskov expressed his regret at the incident and promised to report the Vietnamese request to his country immediately.

### Japan's Cambodian Peace Initiative Noted

*BK1803153091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] According to VNA, the Japanese Government has just proposed a peace plan on Cambodia stressing the important role of the UN.

According to this plan, the UN will play a role in peacekeeping, disarmament supervision, and other activities mentioned in the agreement.

The Japanese plan also suggested that the new working framework include UN organizations to prevent the sort of brutal crimes that occurred during the Pol Pot regime.

The Japanese Government has informed all Cambodian sides of the plan, and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama may be visiting China and Vietnam.

### Soviet Referendum, Initial Results Viewed

*BK1803151491 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] A referendum on the future of the Soviet Union started on Sunday [17 March], drawing great attention from the world public. Here is our radio opinion on this event:

A referendum on the future shape of the Soviet Union was officially carried out on Sunday, and in some Soviet republics it was actually carried out since 14 March.

The purpose of the referendum is to collect the people's opinion on the maintenance of the Soviet Union. The referendum is an unprecedented event in the Soviet history and it was carefully prepared by the Soviet leadership.

In early March, the Soviet Union made public a draft union treaty of all the republics for nationwide discussions and people's self-decision on approval or disapproval of the maintenance of the Soviet Union by their ballots.

In the past two weeks, public opinion in the Soviet Union has expressed different views on this issue and the most typical opponent is Mr. B. Yeltsin who protested against the draft union treaty and rejected the idea of maintaining the Soviet Union.

Six among 15 republics have refused to take part in the referendum but the majority of the Soviet people have opposite views. The president of the Uzbekistan Republic Mr. Karimov said that the majority of people in his republic would vote for the maintenance of the Soviet Union. Many participants to a recent meeting of different social organizations in Moscow affirmed that a union is needed for all nations. It is needed for the whole mankind as a firm guarantee for stability, a reliable trend in confirming a world of equality and security for all nations.

These statements also reflect the aspirations of almost all people in 15 Soviet republics. The world people also share the same views. The existence and unity of the Soviet Union has since long been built by labor, wisdom, and sacrifices of many generations of the Soviet people. This existence cannot be denied for individual interests.

Speaking over the TV on 15 March, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev affirmed that the existence and unity of the Soviet Union must be placed above selfish interests. Being aware of this significance, the Soviet people have basically taken part in the referendum. Initial reports said that the results of the Sunday referendum were optimistic. The majority of people took part in the referendum. A part of people in the six republics who protested against the referendum had gone to the polls since 14 March and they continued to do so on Sunday.

The world is looking forward to the results of the referendum which will be made public on 20 March.

There is strong hope that the referendum will be a success. Broad segments of public opinion also hope that the results of the referendum will pave the way for the success of perestroyka.

### Nguyen Co Thach Greets New Malaysian Minister

*BK1703141091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Mar 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has sent a message of greetings to His Excellency Datuk Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi on the occasion of the latter's appointment as foreign minister of Malaysia.

### Hun Sen Defends Doctoral Thesis in Hanoi

*BK1803083891 Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Hanoi VNA march 18—Associate Doctor Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, on March 16 successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis in political science at the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute in Hanoi.

His thesis, titled "Characteristics of the Cambodian Revolution," sums up the most important stages of the Cambodian revolution, evinces its typical characteristics and forecasts its development in the future.

On December 12, 1990, Hun Sen succesfully defended his thesis of associate doctor of philosophy also at the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute.

### Nguyen Van Linh Investment Forum Address

*BK1803113791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Mar 91*

["Text" of address by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at the 15 March closing session of the Investment Forum for Vietnam held in Ho Chi Minh City—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and Genetlemen, dear friends:

On behalf of the leadership of the Vietnamese party and state, I warmly welcome you who have come here from every part of the world to attend this investment forum. [applause] Your presence reflects the growing interest of foreign businessmen in investment activities in Vietnam. At the same time, it shows your sympathy with and encouragement for our line of renovation.

Proceeding from our country's socioeconomic characteristics and the imperatives of national development, and in keeping with the common trend of our time, the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam has initiated the comprehensive renovation of the country. The fundamental substance of the undertaking is the democratization of social life, the renovation of the economic structure and management mechanism, and the expansion of the division of labor and cooperation with all countries irrespective of their sociopolitical systems. The purpose of such an undertaking is the shaping of a society where democracy and justice are ensured, moral and spiritual values are respected, and the material conditions of life are constantly improved to meet the wishes of the various popular strata.

The line of renovation has been mapped out on the basis of an objective assessment of achievements as well as past errors and shortcomings that draws lessons of practical experience, in which the outstanding lesson lies in the realization that the people are the roots, that everything should be for the people and by the people, that renovation must be aimed at promoting the people's happiness, and that one must rely on the people to carry out renovation. We are fully aware of our strengths as well as our weaknesses in the implementation of renovation. The Vietnamese people are intelligent, skillful, and hard working, have a tradition of unity, and have undergone a great many losses and sacrifices. So now they earnestly wish for peace to develop their economy, society, and culture, in the aim of making the people rich and the nation strong. Promoting the human factor and acting for the sake of man is the motivating force and a condition of primary importance for national construction.

Vietnam possesses a diversified tropical agriculture and rich mineral potential that has yet to be fully and effectively tapped. Its comparative advantages in the international division of labor and economic cooperation have not yet been fully exploited. For us, doing our utmost to combine internal efforts and the open-door policy is the way to bring into full play our potential and comparative advantages. With an underdeveloped economy, which also has suffered the ravages of long years of war, our country's material and technical basis and infrastructure remain poor. Management, though being reformed, remains week in many respects, particularly in the areas of finance and banking. Being aware that this as a major obstacle in the process of development, we have concentrated and will concentrate all our efforts on gradually overcoming this shortcoming.

The political situation in Vietnam is as stable as the line of renovation pursued by the Communist Party of Vietnam is consistent, and enjoys the support of the majority of the people by whom it is eagerly implemented. We advocate renovation in order to achieve stability and development and, conversely, the maintenance of stability so as to continue the task of renovation and move ahead. For this reason, one would be mistaken, in view of the instability generated by reforms in a number of countries, to forecast similar results in Vietnam.

Thanks to the renovation undertaken in conformity with the concrete conditions of the Vietnamese society, there have been important initial achievements over the past four years acknowledged by every Vietnamese and earning the appreciation of friends outside the country. I believe anyone who came to Vietnam five years ago and now has come back can easily see these initial achievements of the renovation process. Effecting the renovation of all aspects of social and economic life, however, is a new undertaking, a process of thorough reform that demands vast efforts and considerable time. The difficulty of that task is further compounded by the present international situation which, though fundamentally favorable, is not without complexities in its evolution which are detrimental to Vietnam. Consequently, the achievements recorded in the economic field have yet to be made evenly and solidly, in some respects, things have become even more difficult.

I think this should be easy to understand as in the process of development, it is impossible to avoid zigzagging steps, but we do believe that ultimately we will reach our objectives.

Dear friends, to continue taking the process of renovation forward, the coming Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam will hold discussions on and adopt Vietnam's strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000 with, as main objectives, the comprhensive stabilization of the socioeconomic situation, the rapid increase of national income, and the building of new material and technical bases, and thus the creation of foundations for a faster development in the future. These are realistic, attainable objectives. Indeed, Vietnam still has large, as yet unexploited, potential and possibilities—such as resources, labor, capital accumulated among the population, and so forth—and ever increasingly expanded relations of cooperation with many countries.

The history of Vietnam's development throughout its 4,000 years of nation-building and safeguarding, as well as in the recent decades of struggle for independence and freedom, shows that never has the Vietnamese nation surrendered in the face of any trial, no matter how harsh it may have been.

The Seventh Party Congress will adopt effective measures and policies aimed at making the most of these basic advantages. Domestically, the management mechanism will continue to be reformed and transformed in the direction of a resolute transition to the state of a regulated market system. All economic sectors will be encouraged, provided conditions for their common development, and treated on an equal footing, doing away with any prejudices toward a private economy. A banking and financial system will be built that can meet the requirements of the operation of the new machanism, abolishing capital and credit subsidies. The new economic structure and a reasonable, effective investment structure will continue to be built. Organization and management will be improved to create favorable conditions for domestic and foreign investors.

Externally, the Vietnamese party and state support the ongoing trend in the world toward peace and cooperation on the basis of the principle of equality and mutual benefit. In the common interest, Vietnam is ready to do its utmost to expand its relations with all countries, and to consolidate and build friendly relations with neighboring countries. Alongside the development of diplomatic relations, Vietnam advocates expanding economic cooperation in all fields and in various forms, in consonance with the internationalization of contemporary economic life.

One of the important aspects of international economic relations is the flow of direct foreign investment. Over the past three years, since implementing the law on foreign investment, Vietnam has attracted more than 200 projects in various sectors of the national economy. These initial results, though modest, are encouraging. They are the start of a new process in our economic cooperation with foreign companies and investors.

Proceeding from the importance attached to this new but very promising form of cooperation and from the full awareness of the weaknesses in management over the past three years, and taking duly into account the opinions exchanged by businessmen at this forum, it is incumbent upon all the relevant Vietnamese agencies to readjust their activities so as to create soon a favorable investment environment which can give investors the confidence needed to carry on with their production and business operations.

In this spirit, I would like to wish you, foreign and Vietnamese businessmen who have met and exchanged views at this forum, many happy results not only at this conference hall but also in all areas of investment from north to south and from the mountain region to the continental shelf of Vietnam. On behalf of the Vietnamese party and state leadership, I would like to thank the UN Industrial Development Organization, the UN Development Program, and the various Vietnamese agencies that organized this investment forum to help promote relations of cooperation and investment between Vietnam and other countries of the world.

I wish you the best of health.

Thank you. [applause]

## 'Peace Village' Built With U.S. Charity Fund

*BK1803100491 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—The first phase of the "Peace Village" project built in the central province of Quang Nam-Danang with the financial assistance of the East Meets West was inaugurated on March 14.

The construction of the village started on four hectares in Hoa Mai Commune, Hoa Vang District in January this year. It will be completed in five years at a total cost of three million U.S. dollars, and will accomodate the unborn disabled [as received], orphans and helpless old people. The first phase of the project covering 800 square metres at the cost of 62,500 dollars was handed over by the East Meets West to the Red Cross of the province.

The East Meets West is a charity organization in the United States founded in 1988 by an overseas Vietnamese, Ms Phung Thi Le Ly. In 1989, the organization funded the construction of an infirmary at the cost of 22,000 U.S. dollars at Hoa Quy Commune, Hoa Vang District, also in Quang Nam-Danang.

### Vo Van Kiet Receives Finnish Businessmen

*BK1803160091 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—Vo Van Kiet, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received a visiting delegation of Finnish businessmen led by Jan Gube, director-general of the Ahlstrom Corporation, in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday.

Speaking to his guests, Vice Chairman Vo Van Kiet highly valued the economic cooperation between the two countries over the past years. He brought out many good results of various Finland-funded socioeconomic projects in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese leader also informed the Finnish businessmen of Vietnam's economic renovation policy, and expressed his hope that Finnish businessmen will further promote their effective cooperation and investment in Vietnam in the time to come.

The Finnish delegation comprises 37 businessmen active in many fields such as power generation, water supply, forestry, paper industry, telecommunications, banking, credit, agriculture, import and export, who are here to explore investment and trade opportunities in Vietnam.

### Ho Chi Minh City Signs Tourist Contracts

*BK1703155191 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—The Tourist Company of Ho Chi Minh City has so far signed contracts with 168 tourist firms of 19 countries.

Topping the list were Thailand with 31 firms, followed by Germany (15 firms), Hong Kong (15 firms), Australia (14 firms), France (12 firms), Japan (nine firms) and South Korea (five firms).

Among the 168 foreign tourist firms, 109 have organized tours of Vietnam for their guests. Besides, the company has signed contracts with tourist companies in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to facilitate tourists' travels to Vietnam.

### First Foreign Bridge-Building Contract Won

*BK1703151191 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Summary] "The Thang Long union of bridge construction enterprises has chosen the right path by bringing into play its advantages along with its technical equipment and a contingent of highly professional bridge builders, and by exerting efforts to look for new markets.

"Thang Long is the first bridge construction unit to have signed small contracts or subcontracts with such countries as Libya, Australia, and Sweden through various foreign organizations. Members of the union are now present at the Nam Hy bridge on Route 13 in southern Laos, more than 80 km from Vientiane. Earlier, the union made a bid on the Nam Hy and Nam Mang bridges and was awarded the contract over some foreign companies."

A representative of SIDA, the Swedish organization that finances the project, has highly appraised the construction quality of the Vietnamese side. "Swedish experts, who have painstakingly inspected various parts of the work completed by Thang Long bridge construction workers, are apparently satisfied with the quality—10 percent greater than required in the plan—of the concrete pillars."

The Thang Long union is responsible for construction of the foundation and all pillars of the bridge. "Since starting this project two months ago, the union has finished 50 percent of the volume of work under contract. This is the first full-package contract under the turnkey system ever won from a foreign country by a Vietnamese bridge construction unit. The union has brought here not only its contingent of workers, but also materials, equipment, and grain and food."

In a recent interview with the Lao national television station, Director General Nguyen Hai Thoai said the brother workers will complete the construction work by late April—7 months ahead of the deadline specified in the contract.

### Ho Chi Minh City Guides Party Congresses

*BK1903025491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[Press Review Program]

[Text] NHAN DAN newspaper reports that Ho Chi Minh City is directing closely its first round party congresses.

In order to achieve high quality at the congresses, the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee conducts experimental congresses in five grassroot organizations.

Experience obtained from these five congresses shows that if they want the congress to have good results in content and form, they need to have good preparation in three areas: preparation of the contents, personnel preparation, and preparation for the congress organization.

Reports compiling opinions discussed by party members should be grouped in three different categories: the draft platform and strategy on socioeconomics, party building, party regulation changes, and political reports. If some contents are repeated, they should concentrate on the main points of the document. The part on the economy of the platform should be spared for the draft platform on socioeconomic strategy, and the part on party building in the platform could be spared for draft reports on party building. Prominent experience of no less importance suggests that they should select important issues of the five documents of the Seventh Party Congress which were paid the most attention by party members, issues discussed inarticulately at primary party organizations, issues having different opinions, and issues relating to political duties of grassroot organizations to be presented for discussion.

### Military Institute Views Draft Documents

*BK1903044091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 91*

[From Press Review Program]

[Text] The QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reports that due to careful preparation, more than 100 representatives who attended the first round party congress of the Political Military Institute enthusiastically and directly discussed and contributed opinions to the main issues in the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress.

The participants spent more time in discussion of the evaluation of scored achievements, mistakes, and shortcomings presented in the draft platform. They all agreed on the draft evaluation of the abovementioned issues.

### Press Meeting Held on Renovation of Youth Work

*BK1803035491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Yesterday morning, 16 March, the Propaganda Department of the Party Central Committee held a press meeting on the dissemination of the 25th Resolution of the Party Political Bureau on renovation and strengthening party leadership in youth work.

At the press meeting, Comrade Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the Youth Union, introduced briefly the youth work and its situation at present. Comrade Nguyen Tien Phong, deputy chief of the Central Propaganda Department presented the important meaning and the essential contents of the 25th Resolution. He stressed that the issuing of the resolution on the 60th Founding Anniversary Day of the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union has the effect of motivating our youths and pushing the whole society to be more responsible to the youth work.

### Nguyen Khanh Attends Meeting in Youth Institute

*BK1803035291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] On 16 March, the Youth Research Institute held a get together meeting to exchange experience in youth work on the commemoration of the institute's fifth anniversary day. Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers attended the function.

The Youth Reseach Institute is a scientific research center on youths and youth organizations. The institute, which belongs to the Central Youth Union, was established on 26 March 1986. Its main duties are: developing theories on youth motivation work; suggesting on the youth union's point of view, work, and policy relating to the young generation; at the same time, reviewing the movements on youths and youth organizations' work; and assisting in teaching the scientific research method for the youth cadres.

### Le Quang Dao Works With Nationalities Council

*BK1703043391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Mar 91*

[Text] National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao on 11-12 March held a conference with the Nationalities Council and other standing committees of the National Assembly.

Attending the conference were Nguyen Viet Dung, secretary of the Council of State, vice chairmen of the National Assembly, and head of the Office of the National Assembly and the Council of State.

The conference heard reports on management and coordination provided by the National Assembly chairman to activities of the Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly during the past year. It also discussed measures aimed at satisfactorily carrying out the resolution on renovating organization and activities of the Nationalities Council and other standing committees of the National Assembly adopted at the December 1990 session. The conference clearly defined the work relations between the Office of the National Assembly and the Council of State and the Nationalities Council and other committees with an aim to improve their activities. The conference noted new progress in these activities during the past period, saying that initial achievements were obtained in broadening openness and democracy by the highest organ of state authority.

The conference noted that the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly will last in the next more than one year. As a result, efforts should be made to draw on experiences on various tasks to improve the National Assembly capabilities for the ninth legislature.

Delegates to the conference also discussed methods to improve activities of the Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly. These include appointment of responsible officials for various standing committees and establishing specialized teams and working groups to help carry out activities of the Nationalities Council and other committees. The Office of the National Assembly and the Council of State should improve its information work to keep the National Assembly deputies and agencies well informed of all situations so as to help them make prompt, accurate proposals and decisions for effective implementation.

## Nguyen Khanh Attends Anti-Illiteracy Conference

*BK1703100291 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] In Hanoi on 14-15 March, the National Committee for Anti-Illiteracy and the Ministry of Education and Training held a conference to review the anti-illiteracy campaign and Level-I education training, and to discuss orientation and work for the 1991 academic year.

Attending the conference were Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh and representatives of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and UNICEF in Vietnam.

Implementing the anti-illiteracy campaign in 1990, the education sector has trained teachers and produced many textbooks serving various levels of students throughout the country. It is expected that one million illiterates will be able to read and write by 1995.

In 1990, Hanoi Municipality, Thai Binh, and Ha Nam Ninh Provinces, and more than 2,149 villages and 75 districts and cities of other provinces fulfilled the state plan norms for the anti-illiteracy campaign. The five mountain provinces of Son La, Hoang Lien Son, Ha Tuyen, Gia Lai-Cong Tum, Dac Lac, and other localities have satisfactorily carried out the campaign and fulfilled 90 percent of the set plan norms.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Nguyen Khanh stressed: The anti-illiteracy campaign and Level-I education training in 1991 and the subsequent years will focus on ensuring all citizens' right to education. It is the duty of the party and state toward the people to contribute more satisfactorily to implementing the socioeconomic development program in localities and to balancing intellectual groups in localities throughout the country.

## Dam Quang Trung Attends School Anniversary

*BK1703100891 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] In Thai Nguyen City, Bac Thai Province on 13 March, the Luong Ngoc Quyen High School held a function to mark its 45th founding anniversary and to receive the Labor Order, Second Class, bestowed by the party and state.

Attending the function were Dam Quang Trung, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of State, leading cadres of the provincial party and people's committee, representatives of sectors and branches at the local and central levels, and former teachers and students of the school.

The school is the oldest and largest high school of Bac Thai Province. Undergoing many revolutionary stages since the wars of resistance against French colonialism and U.S. imperialism, the school has still upheld its tradition as one of the leading schools of the province. It has produced for the nation tens of thousands of capable graduates who have been working with various economic, scientific, and social establishments of the country.

During the past 45 years, the Luong Ngoc Quyen High School has greatly contributed to building and developing the new education system. Many graduates from this school have become competent teachers, and some of them have earned high prestige from the public. During the past several years the school has surged forward to overcome difficulties and shortcomings to satisfactorily fulfill its teaching plan norms and to score achievements in the educational emulation movement. The school has been recognized as a leading school for 10 consecutive years.

Since the 1985-86 academic year dozens of specialized groups of the school have been recognized as capable socialist labor teams, hundreds of its teachers have received emulative combatant titles, and many students have participated in national outstanding student contests.

Due to its efforts and outstanding achievements, the school was awarded the Labor Order, Second Class, by the Council of State on the occasion of its 45th founding anniversary.

## Vo Chi Cong Visits Gia Lai-Kon Tum Province

*BK1703150191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Mar 91*

[Text] Recently Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State, paid a working visit to Gia Lai-Kon Tum Province. Accompanying the chairman was Comrade Tran Kien, secretary of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Central Control Committee.

Comrade Nguyen Van Sy, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Gia Lai-Kon Tum provincial party committee, and the comrade members of the standing bodies of the provincial party committee, people's committee, and people's council gave a warm welcome to Chairman Vo Chi Cong and the comrades accompanying him.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong, Comrade Tran Kien, and the local leading officials spent much time discussing the 1990 socioeconomic situation, the main economic objectives for 1991, and the key issues related to the first round of party organization congresses at all levels and party organization congresses at the provincial level.

After commending the provincial party organization and local people of different ethnic groups for their efforts and achievements in 1990, Chairman Vo Chi Cong and Comrade Tran Kien suggested concrete measures aimed at resolving economic problems in accordance with the renovation line and the specific conditions in the western highland mountain region.

Exchanging his views with the provincial leading officials, Chairman Vo Chi Cong elaborated on a number of issues related to the management of various economic sectors, especially the state-operated economic sector. In his words, it is necessary to get better equipment, adjust personnel organization, and renovate management patterns in order to guarantee business efficiency. He reminded everyone of the need to satisfactorily meet the daily requirements of compatriots in the mountain region and former revolutionary bases and to effectively implement the Political Bureau's Resolution No. 22 and the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 72 on the economic, cultural, and social development in the mountain region. He called everyone's attention to a number of points specified under Resolution No. 10 aimed at promptly normalizing our ethnic minority compatriots' life under the settled life and settled farming program and at filling the gap between compatriots of different ethnic groups so as to make up for the great sacrifices our compatriots have made during the two great national wars of resistance.

While in Gia Lai-Kon Tum, Chairman Vo Chi Cong visited Day La Village, which is inhabited by ethnic minority compatriots, the Mang Giang District Rubber Corporation, the Third Military Region, An Khe District, and the 2d Division in the Fifth Military Region.

## Rice Cultivation, Output Nationwide Reviewed

*BK1703081291 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—Rice has been grown for thousands of years in Vietnam. The legend of the square glutinous rice cakes and glutinous rice dumping proves that rice has always been the staple food of the Vietnamese people. It says that the 18th King of the Hung, founding dynasty of the nation, promised to give the throne to who among his sons should offer him the food he liked best on the Lunar New Year Festival (Tet). Linh Lang, the youngest prince, won the competition by offering the King cakes and dumplings made of glutinous rice and other agricultural produce. Since then these two cakes have never been absent at Tet.

Rice is mainly cultivated in the Red River Delta in the North and the Mekong River Delta in the South. These two 'granaries' amount for two thirds of Vietnam's paddy output.

Rice growing used to depend entirely on nature. As far as rice farming is concerned, there are two distinct seasons in a year: the dry season and the wet season corresponding to two main rice crops in a year. They are the Autumn crop cultivalted in the wet season from April to October, and the Winter-Spring crop in the dry season from November to March.

The government food strategy is based on intensive farming, multicropping and land reclamation. A new rice crop called Summer-Autumn rice has been added to the traditional two-crop structure. This crop is planted mainly in the South from April to August and harvested in October and November, sometimes even in January of the following year.

Farmers in the North grow their Winter-Spring rice crop in the dry season. Sowing is done in October or November, transplantation is done in December or January (before Tet), and harvest in May or June. But this is handicapped by a too long growth period and a relatively low yield. Recently, farmers in many places have replacod it with a non-staple crop and the Spring rice crop. Spring rice is sown in December planted in January or February (after Tet when the temperature has got warmer) and harvested in March or April.

In southern provinces (Thuan Hai southwards) which are much warmer than the northern provinces, Spring rice is planted in November and harvested in February or March.

In addition to restructuring the crops and changing their sowing time, the use of the right strains is also crucial to the increase of rice productivity. Per hectare yield in 1989 was 2.66 tonmes in a crop for Autumn rice, 3.56 tonnes for Summer-Autumn rice and 378 tonnes for Spring rice, bringing the average paddy productivity to more than 3.29 tonnes per hectare in a crop compared to around one ton in the colonial days. The Red River Delta province of Thai Binh tops the list with four tonnes per hetare followed by Dong Thap and Tien Giang in the Mekong Delta, 3.77-3.89 tonnes per hectare in a crop.

In recent years, food output has constantly increased thanks to intensive farming and multi-cropping. Food output rose from 21.439 million tonnes in 1989 to 21.5 million tonnes in 1990. The Mekong River Delta alone yielded 10 million tonnes of paddy in 1990, nearly doubling the level in 1975.